

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE



Thursday, March 13, 2014

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Suspended detective due back at work

A SENIOR female Welshpool detective and a constable who were suspended from duty after they were allegedly caught having sex on duty have been given a final written warning, Dyfed-Powys Police has confirmed.

Detective Inspector Diane Davies and PC Tommy Swales were reportedly caught together in a police station while on duty.

National newspapers reported in October last year that officers heard noises coming from a room occupied by DI Davies and PC Swales and, fearing that someone was breaking in, they burst in on the pair.

At the time of the alleged liaison, Davies was said to have been the highest ranking officer on duty in the Dyfed-Powys Police force.

At the time the force confirmed that two officers were suspended while investigation were under way but would not reveal the reason for those suspensions.

On Tuesday a police spokeswoman said: "Dyfed-Powys Police can confirm that two officers who were suspended from duty pending an internal misconduct investigation, have been issued with a final written warning.

"The officers will recommence their duties in due course."

Sixth forms face closure

THE future of Powys sixth forms is in doubt after it was revealed that classes will be cut by 25 per cent in September.

A strategic review of all post-16 education in Powys is being undertaken, with classes to be cut from current levels of 232 to 181 in September.

That could lead to subjects being axed and even some schools losing their sixth forms. The review is taking place this month and next with the results reported back to the council's cabinet.

Patient hits out at 'inedible' hospital food



Steve Powell speaking out

A MAN recovering from a heart attack claims he was served meals he "wouldn't give to a pig" during his stay at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Steve Powell, who had five heart attacks in as many years, believes it was only food brought in by his family that kept him healthy after he was repeatedly given meals he described as "inedible".

Mr Powell, 62, from Oswestry, claims staff overcooked food, destroying all nutritional value. His claims have been denied by the

hospital, which said all patients were given the right nutrition and hydration.

Mr Powell, who is an engineer, said: "I went into the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital at the end of January and was in for about five or six days.

"Whatever meal they served up to me, it all tasted exactly the same. There was just no taste at all.

"I would not give those meals to a pig, they were completely overcooked and destroyed."

Mr Powell said he could not even identify some of the meals he was served and believes the catering is much better elsewhere. He said: "You don't even know what some of the food is because there's no taste there.

"I think they steamed the chicken, but they destroyed it completely.

"You need protein. I couldn't face some of the meals. When I was in Stoke-on-Trent hospital the food was superb and Telford was better than Shrewsbury."

Joanne Yale, head of facilities at the hospital trust, said: "A vital part of the care we provide for our patients is making sure they get the right nutrition and hydration to support their recovery.

"Our menus are nutritionally analysed and we aim to provide as much variety as we can to cater for a wide range of patient needs. We are always listening to what our patients, visitors and staff tell us about the service they receive and we continually strive to ensure we deliver a high quality service."

Writer to speak at festival of literature

UNICEF ambassador and former war correspondent Martin Bell will be in Oswestry next week to give the Wilfred Owen lecture at the Oswestry Literary Festival which gets under way on Friday.

He was asked to give the lecture in honour of the poet who was born in Oswestry and died as the First World War ended, because of his career as a war correspondent.

Over 30 years, Mr Bell covered 11 conflicts and reported from 80 countries, making his name with reports from wars and conflicts in Vietnam, Middle East, Nigeria, Angola, and in Northern Ireland before being seriously injured by shrapnel in Bosnia.

"I was delighted to be asked as I had always revered Wilfred Owen. His record of the war, through his poems, was a far more accurate representation than that given by the reporters of the time," said Mr Bell.

Oswestry Literary Festival will be opened on Friday at The Dining Rooms, Welsh Walls, by Sunday Times author, Carole Matthews. Events over the weekend include sold out screenings of War Horse a singing workshop and a drawing a poetry party on Saturday as well as Beast Quest for children at Oswestry Library.

Body found in woodland

A BODY found in woodland near Oswestry is believed to be that of a young local man.

Police discovered a body close to the River Morda between Morda and Trefonen at 1.15am on Tuesday.

Officers say no one else is believed to be involved in the death. The discovery followed a search of countryside involving the police helicopter and local officers.

Tributes on Facebook named the young man, in his early 20s, as Chris Davies, from Oswestry.

YOUTH GROUPS UNDER THREAT

THE devastating impact proposed cuts will have on Oswestry's youth service will be spelt out to town councillors at a meeting on Monday.

Town councillors will be asked to give their views on the cuts, which Shropshire Council says are expected to save about £140,000 through staff taking voluntary redundancy.

Four options have been put forward by Shropshire Council to manage the cuts and the council has also outlined which services are likely to be axed depending on which option is eventually chosen.

Many activities provided at The Centre, Oswestry's £2.2 million youth centre in Oak Street which only opened in December 2012, could be lost in the shake-up, town councillors will be told on Monday, though the building will stay open.

Among activities set to go at The Centre include its Youth Forum which meets on Tuesdays, its junior and senior Thursday night youth clubs and its Friday night Girls Group.

Council-funded elements of Saturday activities provided via Fusion Arts Oswestry could also go, a report to the town councillors says.

The Centre's weekly skate night could also be axed, depending on which options is eventually chosen.

Rural youth clubs which sees a minibus sent to villages to pick up youngsters around Oswestry are likely to continue, as will The Centre's Funky Friday drop-in session.

The report to Monday's meeting from Shropshire Council explains the reasons for the cuts.

Council spokeswoman Laura Owen says in the report: "We are facing ongoing budget

by Iain St John

reductions and the youth service will be further reduced in future years.

"Budget pressures on the council have meant that a number of youth workers will leave from April 1, 2014, as part of the voluntary redundancy programme.

"As a result we will need to deliver a reduced service from April 1, 2014, and as a consequence of this, we will only be able to operate a maximum number of 28 youth club sessions each week, out of the current 47.

"A list of youth club sessions including those at risk of closure has been drafted, taking into consideration and retaining those sessions which cater for the young people who need them most.

"We believe that youth club sessions that are held in the most deprived area, and which currently have lots of young people attending should be maintained."

Town councillors will discuss the options at their finance and general purposes meeting on Monday.

The talks start at 7pm at the Guildhall.

Pupils make science fun



Jessica St John and Daniel Walsh enjoy painting

PUPILS at Gobowen School found out that science can be fun during a special week in and out of the classroom.

Science week saw the children learn about a wide range of topics from germs and staying healthy to the cycle of water and the ecology of the school grounds.

Headteacher Lucy Luke said: "We wanted to take the new curriculum and make the work meaningful, practical and interesting."

Events included a visit from a nurse who showed the children how to prevent the spread of germs.

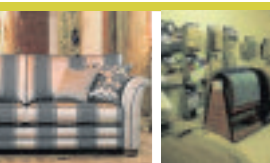
The Scrappies organisation helped pupils make a large mural about the cycle of water and classes also took part in an eco-orienting course around the school.

The Sustrans alternative transport group also visited to show the pupils how to care for their bicycles. There were also visits from the Dogs Trust and from an owl and its owner.

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NEWS

PICTURE PREVIEW



Steve is up for the challenge. Turn to page 48.

CONTACT US

Have you got a story or an event you want covered?

The Oswestry Chronicle has a team of staff who can help:

Associate Editor: Graham Breeze
01691 668094
news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Reporter: Pam Kingsley 01691 668098
pam.kingsley@shropshirestar.co.uk

Reporter: Sue Austin 01691 668099
sue.austin@shropshirestar.co.uk

Sport: Dave Cooper 01952 241475
dave.cooper@shropshirestar.co.uk

Oswestry and Welshpool Photographic
01691 668094
news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Advertisement Manager: David Lee-Birch
01691 668090
dlee-birch@shropshirestar.co.uk

Marcus Evans: 01691 668095
marcus.evans@shropshirestar.co.uk

Beverley Thompson: 01691 668092
beverley.thompson@shropshirestar.co.uk

Alex Reah: 01691 668090
alex.reah@shropshirestar.co.uk

Distribution: Paul Jones 01902 319537
p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

14 Salop Road, Oswestry
SY11 2NU
www.oswestrychronicle.com

Pressure growing for a review of planning rules

By Iain St John

FURTHER pressure is to be put on the Government to review a planning rule which is allowing housing developments to go ahead despite strong local objections, councillors heard last night (Wednesday).

The fresh calls have come out of talks held by the Shropshire branch of the Society of Local Council Clerks.

At the talks, members discussed Shropshire Council's current lack of a five-year land supply for housing.

The lack of land means there is a "presumption in favour of sustainable development", and makes it hard to defend a refusal decision at appeal, Oswestry town councillors planning committee members were told.

Sporting fun event staged by students

STUDENTS in Oswestry celebrated Commonwealth Day and the upcoming Commonwealth Games by holding their own day of sports.

Walford & North Shropshire College Commonwealth Games saw students competing in archery, futsal, sitting volleyball, short tennis and self-defence. Throughout the day, there was also a games room available.

The day of activities was open to all students at the Oswestry campus, but also had a more serious side, fundraising for BBC Sports Relief and the Midland Air Ambulance.

Nikki Williams, one of the organisers, said: "It's been good to make links with the external partners. I'm really enjoying the course and would recommend it to anyone involved in sport."

The college welcomed six students from Staffordshire University to run the events alongside its own first year students, the outreach team from the Army National Recruitment Centre, Oswestry Cricket Club and the Edge Adventure Activities Ltd.

Concerns

There are concerns that unplanned development applications will increase while Shropshire Council waited for its Site Allocations and Management of Development plans, known as SAMDev, to be approved.

SAMDev will identify a supply of housing land for thousands of homes across the county up to 2026. But at the moment it is still going through the approval stages, and as a result the Government's National Planning Policy Framework is taking precedence, and developers are using it to their advantage.

The councillors will be told Oswestry town clerk David Preston and Shrewsbury town clerk Helen Ball have written letters to Shropshire Council highlighting concerns about the situation.

Those concerns will be passed on to MPs and Government in support of Shropshire Council's calls for a review of the policy.

Napoleonic troops take over castle



Two members of the 85th Infantry, Lyndon Sanderson from Derby, left and Alex Clark from Rochester.

TWO members of the 85th Infantry from the French Army, Lyndon Sanderson from Derby, left and Alex Clark from Rochester, A GROUP of early 19th Century soldiers have stormed a castle near Oswestry armed with rifles and muskets.

But fortunately for the people of Whittington the soldiers weren't fighting for real.

Historical re-enactors the 5/60th Royal American (Rifles) spent the weekend camped at the castle, near Oswestry, as they showed visitors what life would have been like around

the turn of the 19th century.

The group depicts the 1797-1815 Napoleonic period of British history, and during the weekend visitors were invited to try out life as a soldier by joining in with rifle drills and watch demonstrations of the guns and other weapons the re-enactors had brought with them.

Soldiers guarded the entrance to the castle and carried out drill practices, and when a group of French soldiers arrived at the castle there was a skirmish to send them packing.

Castle manager Sue Ellis said: "Over

200 years ago the whole area was on high alert. Oswestry received over 300 Napoleonic prisoners of war were billeted with local families and stayed four years.

"In a town with a population at the time of 1,000 people these prisoners must have caused quite a stir. When Napoleon abdicated in April 1814 the prisoners returned home."

"It was the first time we've hosted a Napoleonic group, but it went down really well."

The castle's next living history event will be on March 30 from 11am to 3pm

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NEWS

BT staff in double boost to sport fund

STAFF at BT in Oswestry are providing a double boost for Sport Relief this year.

The company's base on the outskirts of Oswestry provides the technical expertise to ensure that the national pledge night runs like clockwork.

This year, for only the third time ever, BT employees will also be running a pledge centre for telephone donations from the headquarters.

While scores of BT volunteers take donations from Sport Relief supporters over the phone, another BT team will be monitoring the network to ensure the smooth running of the telethon on March 21.

The team makes sure as many calls as possible from people pledging money are answered, without disrupting normal services elsewhere.

Up to 100 volunteers will man the phones from 6pm until midnight on Sport Relief night, March 21.

Barbara McNally-Young BT's "Sport Relief champion" for Oswestry, said: "Unlike the other BT pledge centres taking donations, we're not a working call centre, so we've had to put in a temporary phone system specially. This will enable around 55 people here to take donations at any one time."

BT has supported Comic Relief since its launch in 1985.

Chance to go on cycle ride

CYCLISTS who are more interested in taking in the views as they ride than setting speed records are invited to join in with the Cycle Oswestry Gently group.

The rides set off from Wilfred Owen Green at 11am on the last Sunday of every month.

100-seater cinema will welcome movie-goers

By Pam Kingsley

A NEW 100-seater cinema looks set to open in Oswestry this year, in a former community centre.

Kinoculture has agreed a five-year lease for the Kingswell Centre building in Arthur Street, which has been empty for three years.

And project bosses have said the new venue could also be brought back into wider community use as a meeting space for youth projects, talks and other meetings.

Ian Garland, technical director of Kinoculture, said he envisages the centre being used regularly by many of the groups who used it before it closed.

He said: "It saddened me when Kingswell closed and many of our volunteers who had been to the centre or who had children involved in activities there were sad."

"We want to resurrect using it like it was before."

"We will use it as a theatre but it's also about bringing it back into community use for other functions like lecture space for groups like U3A, because we'll have very good AV facilities to do presentations and talks."

"We're developing youth film projects as well in the town and so they will be able to use the centre."

Kinoculture is currently based at the Attfield Theatre on Bailey Head.

It screens films and associated talks and events at the theatre for its audiences.

Benefits

But Mr Garland said there would be many benefits to moving into the much larger centre from the Attfield, including more space, which will allow for larger audiences and more freedom to schedule programmes.

"It's a massive space - you could probably fit four Attfields in there," he said.

"We do get the demand for seats and have sell-out shows, but the main problem about working from the Attfield is that it's a shared space with the Attfield Theatre Company and they're set building and having their own productions, so we have to programme a film and then work with someone else to make sure we can fit it in."

He added: "With this new centre we will be freed up to programme things a lot more and gives us more artistic control."

Mr Garland said they were aiming for a mid May opening.

He said: "There's a lot of work to do on the premises."

"It's been sadly neglected for a number of years and empty for three years."

"There's no heating in there so we need to sort that out."

"We're looking forward to it. It's very scary but exciting."

Wildlife trust's award for work to attract more butterfly species

THE Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust has won a national award for its work to attract butterflies to a reserve near Oswestry.

The Llanymynech Hill Butterfly Project won the 2014 Environmental Award for its work to improve habitat on the nature reserve to protect and enhance the resident butterfly populations.

The project is funded by the Aggregates Levy Fund for Wales and won the top environmental award from the Mineral Products Association.

Llanymynech Hill is home to eight Biodiversity Action Plan species. The rarest butterfly found at Llanymynech Rocks is the pearl-bordered fritillary, which is suffering massive decline across the UK but has several strongholds in Montgomeryshire.

The population at Llanymynech has seen its numbers stabilise and increase and this is due in a large part to the work of the butterfly project staff and volunteers.

The Llanymynech Hill Butterfly Project uses a combination of sheep grazing and volunteer work parties to manage the scrub levels on seven hectares of nature reserve. The project has also funded training sessions for volunteers who monitor the butterfly numbers and also produce a brochure and ID chart to encourage people to report their butterfly records.

Eley Hart, operations manager at Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, said: "This is a great example of what industry and wildlife trusts working together can accomplish."

Children's safety message



Headteacher Lucy Luke and Dot Basham judge entries.

YOUNGSTERS have joined the fight to clamp down on speeding traffic in their village by designing colourful warning posters urging motorists to slow down.

The posters were drawn up by pupils at Gobowen Primary School and will go on display around the village in the near future.

A competition was held at the school and the winners were selected by Police Constable Kate Le'Clerc and Community Support Officer Dan Firth.

The pair visited the school to choose the winners and hand out the prizes. The competition was run as part of a road safety

campaign calling for a pedestrian crossing in the village, near Oswestry.

Dot Basham, a member of the campaign group who has grandchildren at the school, said she would be having the designs made up to be displayed around the village.

Constable Le'Clerc said that it was a difficult decision to choose the winners because there was lots of imagination on show. She said: "Those that were chosen will stand out to drivers and were clearly the work of the children."

Headteacher Lucy Luke said: "Staff have been keen to get involved in an issue very close to their hearts."

NEWS in brief

Motorists are urged to belt up

MOTORISTS are being encouraged to belt up as part of a Europe-wide campaign.

The campaign, which runs this week, follows a study by the Department of Transport which showed that many people, especially those travelling in the back, admitted that they sometimes don't do up their seatbelts for short journeys.

It also found that goods vehicle drivers and company car drivers also admitted not strapping in regularly.

Journeys taken late at night, early in the morning or within low speed limit areas are also situations where low seat belt use is typically seen.

The campaign is being supported by the Safer Roads Partnership and West Mercia Police.

Talk on church for history group

POWYS Family History society will be hearing stories from a church in Oswestry when its next meeting goes ahead next week.

The group will meet on March 22 at 2pm at The Corn Exchange, at the town hall in Broad Street, Welshpool.

Mrs R P Williams will give a talk on "Tales from the Vestry of St Oswald's, Oswestry with Montgomeryshire Interests."

Organisers say the event is open for anyone to attend. It is welcome. For more information please contact Chrys Bonds on (01746) 763456.

Music evening at town venue

KIRK Brandon of Spear of Destiny and Dave Sharpe of The Alarm will be bringing punk rock to Oswestry this weekend.

The pair will be performing at Hermon Chapel in Chapel Street on Saturday.

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NEWS

Fundraisers urged to get out their running shoes

By Iain St John

FUNDRAISERS in Oswestry are being urged to get their running shoes on and take part in this year's Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile.

The town's contribution to the national fundraiser takes place on March 23 at The Venue at Park Hall.

Organisers hope hundreds of people will get involved in the fundraiser and say people from super sprinters to willing walkers will all feel at home with a choice of one, three or six miles.

Staff from Sainsbury's store in Oswestry are doing their bit for the cause and have teamed up with the town's Welsh League football club The New Saints to support the initiative.

Busy times for town rambblers

OSWESTRY Ramblers made the most of the good weather to enjoy two walks in the Shropshire countryside.

On Thursday a party of 19 rambblers set off from the car park at Queen's Head for a leisurely five mile walk to Winefride's Well and West Felton.

Sunday saw a group of 17 make an early start for Llanarmon for a nine mile moderate walk along part of Offa's Dyke, while a second group of eight, including three new members, set out from Llangollen and climbed up the hill to the south of the town to enjoy the spectacular views of Dinas Bran, the Horseshoe Falls and Valle Crucis.

Today (Thursday) there will be a moderate six mile walk to Llangedwyn to Bwlch-yddar and Pen-y-ddalfo on hills, paths and roads. Meet at Gatacre playing fields car park in Oswestry or call 07805 161490.

On Sunday there will be a 9am start on a nine mile moderate walk from Pentrefelias, taking in part of the Hiraethog Trail. Meet at Oswestry's Central Car Park.

Firefighters host car wash



Firefighter Troy Smith gets to work.

FIREFIGHTERS armed themselves with buckets and sponges to kick-start Shropshire's contribution to a national charity campaign.

Members of Oswestry's fire crews took part in the national Fire Fighters Charity car wash by cleaning vehicles at Oswestry's Central Car Park.

A total of 11 fire stations in the county are offering the car cleaning service for a charity donation as part of the fundraising initiative.

They are hoping to raise hundreds of pounds for the charity which gives respite, recuperation and rehabilitation to sick or injured firefighters and their families.

Organiser Ashley Brown, a retained support officer from Bridgnorth, said: "The events have gone from strength to strength."

"The local Barclays branch has kindly offered to match fund the donations collected as well as provide staff to take part."

The Oswestry crew launched the initiative in Shropshire on Saturday.

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NEWS

Festival is to be centred on walks

PEOPLE are being encouraged to get out on their feet and discover the wonders of walking during the Ramblers' biggest ever free short walks festival in May.

Oswestry Walking for Health will be offering people in the area free short walks in addition to the regular treks as part of Get Walking Week between May 3 and 10. Regular walks will take place on the first, second and third Tuesdays of month at 10am from the Cambrian Railway Centre, at 2pm on Tuesdays from Gatacre sports pavilion and on Thursdays at 10.30am from Lorne Street day centre.

Additional walks for the week will take place on May 6 starting at 6pm from the fire station and heading around the top end of Oswestry.

Walks in the Morda and Llanforda estate areas will be held on May 8 and 10.

Liz Evans, scheme coordinator for Oswestry, said: "Walking is such a wonderful way to get to know your local area and make new friends that it hardly even feels like exercise."

"We'd love to welcome some new faces at Oswestry during Get Walking Week."

"It really is a great opportunity for those who have been thinking about getting active to take that first step."

Crossing campaign hoping for success

CAMPAIGNERS calling for a pedestrian crossing to be installed near a Shropshire village school say they are expecting to hear soon whether their battle has been successful.

Hundreds of people in Gobowen signed a petition calling for the crossing on St Martins Road.

Many families cross the busy road to reach School Lane and on to the village school.

Now that Shropshire Council's overall budget has been set for the next financial year, the campaigners say they are now keeping their fingers crossed that the road improvement scheme will be in the council's highways department's budget.

Gobowen grandmother Dot Basham, who has led the safety campaign, said she had been in contact with highways chiefs and expected a decision next week.

She said: "They have told me there will be meeting early in the week so I think we will hear at the end of next week."

"We are all keeping our fingers crossed."

Shropshire Council installed Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) last year on St Martin Road in a bid to slow traffic down.

The electronic signs give a warning to drivers to slow down if sensors picked up they are travelling over the

By Iain St John

30mph limit. Mrs Basham said: "The VAS signs worked to start with but people have just got complacent. We do have many considerate drivers, but you have the others who just don't seem to care."

Mrs Basham said the village school had got involved in the road safety campaign. Gobowen Primary School children were asked to design anti-speed signs as part of a road safety competition.

She said: "The competition entries will be judged on Monday and I think it is great the school is getting involved."

"The winning designs will be put up around the village and you hope that drivers will listen to the children's wishes."

Shropshire Councillor for Gobowen David Lloyd said: "We are expecting to hear any time now. We are waiting for the final financial schemes to be approved."

Travel agency aids hospice



Back, Gary Smout and Llinos Evans, with Sally Roberts

STAFF at a travel agency are preparing for three months of fundraising after signing up to a challenge set by Hope House.

First Choice in Oswestry has signed up to the hospice's corporate challenge.

As part of the challenge companies are given £50 by the charity and are challenged to increase it by as much as is legally and ethically possible within 90 days. Companies also receive a limited edition money box donated to Hope House by the British Ironwork Centre.

Sally Roberts, First Choice retail manager, said: "We are starting our challenge with a First Choice bake off and cake sale which will take place in store on April 24 and also plan to take part in the Hope House Ladies Midsummer Night's Walk in June."

"We are happy to be supporting such a worthy cause and to be taking part in this exciting challenge."

Any companies interested in the challenge can call (01691) 671671.

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FEATURE & COMMENT

BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

A n Oswestry man this week gets front page coverage over his criticism of the meals at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. But how fair is he being?

Describing the meals as "not fit to feed to pigs" is surely going too far.

Any of us unfortunate enough to have spent time in the Royal Shrewsbury will have sampled the delights of the hospital's kitchen and whether we were happy or not the fact is that we WERE fed.

Steve Powell's criticism has also appeared in other newspapers and I can't help feeling he is going over the top by taking pictures of the food he was served.

He might want to consider how difficult it must be to prepare food for hundreds of patients three times a day, all with different tastes and preferences.

The hospital is not a restaurant, and while providing nutritional meals is considered essential, presentation is not the biggest priority faced by bosses.

My own experiences recently do not mirror those of Mr Powell and I think he will have angered many fellow patients with his condemnation of the service.

Everyone at the Royal Shrewsbury gets a choice of menu and I found the staff very helpful when it came to meal times. Nobody expects an "a la carte" service when in hospital, where the priorities are the health of patients.

Me thinks you "doth protest too much" Mr Powell.

Still no trace

As I write this column there is still no trace of the Malaysia Airlines plane which vanished about an hour after it took off from Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

All contact was lost as it flew over the South China Sea with 239 passengers on board, south of Vietnam's Ca Mau peninsula. No distress signal or message was sent.

Its whereabouts remains a mystery and we can only feel for the hundreds of relatives waiting to hear of news of their loved ones.

A bar room train of thought overheard on Tuesday revolved around the aircraft being taken by visitors from some far off planet.

Rubbish and a little too much beer talking you might say but could there be some truth in the theory? Is there really no-one else out there? Surely we are not the only form of life in such an endless universe?

Or perhaps it was too much beer talking.



Hairdresser Danielle Francis.



Health Care Assistant Stephanie Heathcock.



Gamekeeper Chloe Davies.

Apprentices get the best of both worlds

SUE AUSTIN reports on how college is trying to give its students the best chance to get a foot on the job ladder

A COLLEGE is working with employers to ensure apprentices have the best start in their chosen career.

Walford and North Shropshire College is involved in apprenticeship schemes in as varied careers as agriculture and hairdressing, business and motor mechanics.

Staff at the college said many students are now choosing to achieve qualifications through apprenticeships, working and earning a salary while gaining skills and experience.

The college offers apprenticeship scheme in agriculture, business administration, customer Service, gamekeeping, hairdressing, health and social care and motor vehicle professions.

Skills

Chloe Davies, 17, is a female gamekeeper Llanrhaeadr currently studying her Level 2 Gamekeeping and Wildlife Management apprenticeship and working at the Powis Castle Shoot. She looks after the pheasants, partridge, ducks and deer and also manages.

"I've learnt how to medicate game birds, feed them and make sure they are in good health," Chloe said.

"I love being able to learn new things and I enjoy being hands-on with my job, there's no better way to learn than being in the working environment. I have also developed better social skills with the many visitors that come to the estate."

She is also enjoying extra courses including forestry management.

Chloe's employer is Peter Shaw, the owner of the shoot who has employed several apprentices over the years. He



Walford & North Shropshire College at Oswestry.

said: "Chloe's doing well, she has been with us for just over 12 months now and is able to do everything that we do. It's good to have an apprentice in as they are keen and want to learn."

Danielle Francis, 21, from Penrhos, Llanymynech is the College's star hairdressing apprentice and works at the Helen Hawker Salon near Crew Green.

"Since starting my apprenticeship I have learnt a lot of new skills and been given more responsibility at work. I have gained lots of technical skills such as a base line cut and also have learnt to mix colours."

Danielle's manager is Helen Hawker who was herself an apprentice more than 25 years ago.

"She said: 'It's really important to have a good relationship between the employer, the learner and the assessor. Once Danielle is qualified, she will be

fully employed here and I'd definitely want to take on another apprentice."

As part of the apprenticeship she undertakes duties such as answering the phone, handling money, washing hair, applying base colours and basic cutting.

"I prefer actually being in the workplace with clients and dealing with real life situations and being able to work and earn money whilst gaining a qualification. Also, I have developed a good working relationship with my manager and I am always learning from her."

One benefit of an apprenticeship is that it can be started any time throughout the year and Danielle is already planning to progress to the Level 3 apprenticeship in the near future.

Working in health and social care is Stephanie Heathcock, 24 from Oswestry, currently working towards her Level 3 Health Care Support Ser-

vices Apprenticeship as a Health Care Assistant on the Alice Ward at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital in Gobowen.

"I have enjoyed linking theory to practice and learning on the job. Being able to carry out the qualification whilst still being in my work environment has been very beneficial. I find that when it comes to learning I'm more receptive to practical learning and not being stuck in a classroom."

"The apprenticeship was more feasible for me as I was able to combine working with study and also bring home a wage."

Small businesses can access a £1,500 grant via the College for taking on an apprentice for the duration of their study.

One of the men undertaking an apprenticeship is Jeremy Stridgen, 36 from Much Wenlock, working towards his Level 3 Motor Vehicle Apprenticeship at Burway Garage in Church Stretton.

Jeremy enjoys his job and comments, "This apprenticeship has enabled me to achieve a good qualification and learn valuable skills, while still earning a reasonable wage. For me the main benefits have been, learning on the job, I feel I am learning every day."

"Recently I have really grown in confidence and ability. I used to be terrified of electricity, now, although I am still learning, I can approach a job with confidence and know that with a little research I can usually diagnose and repair the fault."

With an apprenticeship it's not just about the practical work, the learner has to complete college work that provides evidence for the qualification. Each apprentice has an assessor employed by the College to guide and support the learner through their apprenticeship.

If you are an employer who could offer an apprentice a job, or if you would like to apply for an apprenticeship, you can find out more by contacting Lucy Bowen, Work-based Learning Co-ordinator on 01691 688038 or email l.bowen@wncs.ac.uk More information is available via the website at www.wncs.ac.uk

WORKING FOR YOU



Owen Paterson MP

Since I was elected in 1997 I have enjoyed a good working relationship with the Officers at Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service whose volunteer fire-fighters serve the people of North Shropshire bravely.

I was therefore concerned to learn that the Fire Authority was considering scrapping the fire stations at Baschurch, Hodnet and Prees.

Many constituents shared my real worries and I received a large postbag of letters from concerned residents.

Public meetings were held to discuss each of the three fire stations that were threatened with closure. At every meeting, the fire-fighters explained the details of each area and made compelling arguments. There was a good turnout of local residents who made important contributions.

Each station covers an area with its own unique characteristics but the overwhelming worry was the sharp increase in response times.

Small retained fire stations provide a vital service in North Shropshire. The Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service's track record speaks for itself; it is one of the two best performing fire services in the country.

I am grateful to Chief Fire Officer, John Redmond for coming to each of the meetings and making a clear presentation on the Fire Authority's position.

Efforts to stop these closures were not just limited to North Shropshire. Fire Minister, Brandon Lewis MP agreed to meet a delegation of Shropshire MP's at the House of Commons.

John Redmond travelled from Shropshire to help present our concerns to the Minister. He made a strong case for the difficult position in which Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service finds itself, in particular in comparison to many urban Fire Authorities.

I was therefore delighted when Shropshire Fire and Rescue Authority made the wise decision to keep the stations open. This was a direct result of the overwhelming support of local people whose voices were heard loud and clear.

I am grateful to all of those who wrote to me about this issue. This was a real team effort and shows that together, we can make a difference.

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WILL TUPE REGULATIONS APPLY IF I TAKE OVER A BUSINESS THAT HAS SIX EMPLOYEES?

Q: I run a small business which despite the financial crisis has been doing well. I now have the opportunity to take over a similar small business due to its owner retiring. As it only has six employees would it still be governed by TUPE regulations if I needed to make some staff redundant after taking on the business?

A: The TUPE regulations will apply and any provision that purports to limit or exclude the rights of employees is deemed void. However, recent changes that came into force on January 31st this year may be of some assistance to you.

If the transfer is taking place after 1 May 2014, the deadline for the current business owner to provide you with employee liability information has been extended from 14 to 28 days. This will give you more time to weigh up your options.

As the business has less than ten employees you would be able to inform and consult with the employees individually if there is no union or representative body already in place.

Perhaps the most significant change for you is that you, with the current employer's consent, will be able to carry out your redundancy information and consultation obligations with affected transferring employees before you actually become their employer.

This answer comes with a significant health warning, however: the new law is uncertain and if you get this wrong, you could be on the receiving end of an automatic unfair dismissal claim. A number of employment lawyers are struggling to see how the new law, which purports to widen the protection for employers in your position, will actually differ from the previous law in practice.

The TUPE regulations are complex and it would be advisable for you to seek expert advice from a specialist employment solicitor prior to making any decisions or taking action.

Further information relating to this question is available from Nicholas Kennan, a Solicitor Advocate with GHP Legal.

For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194 or visit www.ghplegal.co.uk

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LETTERS

Holidays just too vital to miss out

I must say I entirely agree with G Sullivan's letter relating to the family who went on holiday, despite the new ruling that children are forbidden to go away during school time. Of course they should have gone!

I was a primary school teacher for nearly 20 years and it's my conviction that the education system takes itself far too seriously. What is more important – children sitting in a class room for 10 days or going as a family to foreign climes where they will get such educational stimulus?

If their holiday is abroad they will experience a different culture and language, and climate. Holidays in Britain are full of similar stimulation.

What's more, they will have a time of bonding with their family. Something that's rare in this modern world, when both parents have to work.

When I was trained it was commonly taught that without stimulation there could be no learning.

Also we were taught that learning was not simply to enable children to tick the right boxes so that the teacher could tick boxes about them.

What better stimulation could there be to learning, in its complete sense, than having a holiday with mum and dad?

I bet when those children got back there was such an eagerness to share it.

If that's against the law, then to quote Mr Bumble: "The law is an ass."
Rev Bob Pitcher
Oswestry

What about road safety?

IT is interesting the NFU Wales is to seek a review of tractor road speeds.

It is, of course, quite noticeable tractors have grown in size and power. Agriculture has changed, so we now see mega farms, with holdings several miles apart, and also contractors who are on the roads from dawn to dusk, and often later.

But what about safety? A review needs to answer why, with ever-growing traffic volumes, our roads should have to support an increasing number of long-distance agricultural machines.

Chris Brown
Westbury

Chance to become a volunteer

EACH year we celebrate National Student Volunteering Week and I'd like to tell your readers about the many benefits of volunteering for young and old alike.

I work for Vitalise, an amazing national charity that provides essential respite breaks for people with disabilities and carers.

At Vitalise we believe in giving our guests not just a holiday but an experience, and thanks to the invaluable help of our volunteers we are able to do just that.

Vitalise volunteers are from all

walks of life, but no matter what their age or background, each and every person is united by the desire to make a difference to the lives of others.

What's more, volunteering isn't just a great way to gain personal fulfilment, it can also provide a fast track into working life, just as it did for 84% of the 16-25 year old volunteers we surveyed, who said that volunteering with Vitalise had improved their prospects of gaining paid employment.

Whether fresh out of University or embarking on life after retirement, there has never been a better time to

get out there and see what volunteering has to offer.

So I would like to invite your readers to join our wonderful volunteers and help our disabled guests enjoy much-needed breaks. No matter how much time you have to spare – the odd day, a week or two, or perhaps a few months – there's so much to gain!

For more information call 0303 303 0147 or email volunteer@vitalise.org.uk

Stephanie Stone,
Vitalise

Too many children living in real fear

TOO many children caught up in conflict live in daily fear – not only of bullets and bombs, but also of the devastating threat of sexual violence. UNICEF UK is calling on communities across the UK to join our call to protect children in conflict zones from rape and sexual abuse.

Syria is a particularly pressing case, where the third anniversary of the fighting approaches on March 15 and an entire generation of Syrian children are at risk of being lost.

Between February and May last year nearly three quarters of the Syrian refugees newly arrived in Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq who spoke to child protection researchers said that sexual violence is on the rise inside their country.

In June the UK Government hosts a crucial global summit on sexual violence in conflict. UNICEF UK is calling for international leaders to seize this chance to commit to protect children. We want the UK Government to make sure the summit prioritises measures to help children to report sexual crimes and hold their abusers to account.

We need your help to turn political will into practical action. Please add your voice now to our call to help end sexual violence against children in conflict: www.unicef.org/uk/endsexualviolence

Anita Tiessen
UNICEF UK

The US policy is to blame

I can understand why the Islamic world looks upon the United States of America as the great Satan especially after the second Iraq War and the invasion of Afghanistan, and more recently, backing the Arab Spring that has overthrown governments in Libya, Egypt, and Syria.

Not satisfied with this, the USA and the EU sent John McCain and Baroness Ashton to Ukraine to stir up extremists to riot and get rid of an elected government. Now this regime change by proxy has happened and Russia has moved it's tanks into Crimea.

Mark Norwood
Whittington

Pair discover two heads are better than one



No – this way! Brothers Benjamin and James Hampson, of Oswestry, take a ride on a sculpture by Mark Evans, commissioned by Shropshire County Council at Oswestry's old racecourse in July 1993.

Saving link to history is simply vital

I am writing to express my concern at Shropshire Council's decision to include OSW004 (housing development on Whittington Road, Oswestry) in the SAMdev plan.

I fail to understand how Shropshire Council can be unaware that Old Oswestry Hillfort is one of the most important historical sites in the whole country – not just in Shropshire. Perhaps Shropshire Council is not interested in our history, culture and heritage?

Old Oswestry and as much of the surrounding area as possible needs to be preserved for the nation and future generations – not built on. I encourage Shropshire residents to join the fight to stop this development before it is too late.

Helen Payne
Oswestry

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Readers' Letters,
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254605

E-MAIL

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

PM's meaning of what is morally right

DAVID Cameron tells us half a tale regarding his "moral right" to cut benefits. He highlights Londoners who have been claiming up to £80,000 in housing benefit, omitting to mention that this benefit was a gravy-train for Tory landlords who pitched their private rents just beyond what the locals could afford leaving them no choice but to claim.

The PM tells us about "doing what is morally right". Is it morally right that the state pension is a taxable £115 per week while more than 1,000 peers of the realm can claim £300 per day, tax free to attend the House of Lords?

Is it morally right the poorest in our society are subsidising the food and drink of MPs in Westminster? It seems the word moral has a different meaning for rich and poor.

Bob Wydell
Oswestry

Scheme is important for young

NOW that National Apprenticeship Week is over for another year, it has cast a spotlight on the importance of apprenticeships to benefit young people and help employers gain the skilled workers they need to grow.

But until SMEs get their HR house in order and red tape gets cut, many are going to remain stubbornly reluctant to take on an apprentice.

There is a simple solution. Here at Chorus HR we are making our HR solution available to all SMEs with no charge for apprentices. Apprentices make a unique contribution to business and we want to help SMEs and young people get on.

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NEWS

NEWS
in briefEmbroiderers
getting busy

MEMBERS of Oswestry & District Embroiderers' Guild were given the chance to produce hand-embroidered decorations in all colours of the rainbow at their February meeting.

Pamela Tomkins demonstrated how to make miniature tennis balls at the meeting before members tried the craft themselves.

The next meeting will take place on March 21 when guest speaker Rosemary Green will give a talk about "coiling tendrils - ideas for textile design". There will then be an opportunity for members to devise their own designs. For more information call (01691) 650371 or 671773.

Captain Phillips
film screening

OSCAR-NOMINATED film Captain Phillips (12a) will be shown by Flicks in the Sticks at Kinnerley Parish Hall near Oswestry on March 20.

The film, which was nominated for Best Motion Picture, Best Supporting Actor, and awards for film editing, sound editing and mixing, and best adapted screenplay, tells the true story of Captain Richard Phillips and the 2009 hijacking by Somali pirates of the US-flagged MV Maersk Alabama, the first American cargo ship to be hijacked in 200 years.

The film starts at 7.30pm. Tickets from (01691) 682282.

Delight at bureau after council's cut is reduced

CITIZENS' Advice Bureau officials have spoken of their relief after councillors in Mid Wales backed down on plans to axe all of their funding to the charity.

The charity will lose 15 per cent of its annual £93,580 grant from Powys County Council after the authority set a new budget aimed at finding £20 million of savings.

But the CAB had been facing losing all of its grant until the plans were revised at a full council meeting earlier this week where the budget was agreed.

The CAB is now seeking urgent meetings with senior councillors to work out how bureau advice services can still be effectively delivered across the whole of Powys with reduced funding.

Chris Mann, chairman of CAB trustees in Powys, said: "To lose 15 per cent of our council funding is bad enough, but the original plan to cut it by 100 per cent would have been a catastrophe for our clients who the most vulnerable people in the community."

"Powys councillors have recognised just how valuable the CAB's work is, not just because of the £2.2 million we recovered for clients last year but in minimising the social harm of poverty, deprivation and problems like debt, housing and employment issues."

Muriel Ryan, CAB manager for Powys, said: "It's

By Sue Austin

vital that our volunteers and paid staff continue to operate throughout Powys. That much was evident by the over five thousand people who signed our petition to keep the CAB going.

"Our volunteers were heartened by the positive comments from numerous councillors who appreciate the dedicated work they do."

Leader Councillor Barry Thomas said: "This year's budget has been one of the hardest ever for the council with a significant cut in funding, ever increasing service pressures resulting in the need for a £20 million reduction in spending."

"Reducing our spending by such an amount was never going to be easy and our budget proposals were always likely to attract some criticism. But, we have to balance the needs of providing statutory services such as education and social care, alongside those that are socially desirable while taking into account ability to pay."

Bethan is hoping to sing with Bryn



Bethan joins other singers auditioning at the Wales Millennium Centre for the chance to sign with Bryn Terfel.

A YOUNG singer is hoping to be on the way to stardom after auditioning for a prestigious role alongside opera superstar Bryn Terfel at this summer's Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod.

Terfel will choose the three young unknowns to take the stage alongside him when he performs the title role of Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street, on the opening night of

this year's festival on Monday, July 7.

Soprano Bethan Rumsey, from Llanfyllin, took part in auditions held in Cardiff's Wales Millennium Centre, last weekend.

After more auditions at the Royal International Pavilion, in Llangollen, on Saturday, Terfel will select his young co-stars.

Bethan, 18, said: "I'd love to work in the performing arts and it would be

a great experience to sing with Bryn Terfel."

Speaking after the Cardiff auditions, Eisteddfod director, Eilir Owen Griffiths said was impressed by the quality of the entrants.

"Everyone is coming very well prepared and they are clearly taking it very seriously but then there is a lot at stake because it could be the springboard for someone's career."

Hospital receives special op table

OSWESTRY Orthopaedic Hospital is offering upright surgery after taking delivery of two specialist tables.

The new tables cost just over £15,500 each and are ideal for patients who choose to stay awake during shoulder and other upper limb surgery.

One of the tables was provided by the hospital trust, and surgeons were so impressed with it they asked the hospital's League of Friends to provide a second table.

Consultant orthopaedic surgeon Richard Potter, who has a special interest in upper limb surgery, and consultant anaesthetist Ruth Longfellow asked the League of Friends if they could fund a second table.

Mr Potter said: "The tables can bend like a chair with easier positioning of patients with the resulting decreased risk of blood clots. They also lend themselves readily to 'awake' keyhole surgery. It means a high proportion of 'awake' patients can go home the same day."

The state-of-the-art tables were built in Finland and are lighter and more adaptable than their predecessors.

June Middleton, League executive committee member, said: "These tables are of a huge benefit, not only to patients but also operating staff."

Lower School Open Morning



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NEWS

Dieters shed a total of 28 stones

MEMBERS of a new slimming group are enjoying the lighter side of life after losing 28 stone between them in just three weeks.

The 80 members of Baschurch Slimming World Group have lost the equivalent of about 65 house bricks in that time.

Tracy Jones has lost 12lbs in three weeks. She said: "Filling up on lots of satisfying foods means you're never hungry so I've never felt as though I was on a diet."

"I thought losing weight meant going to the gym and counting calories. But now I know it's about making healthier choices about food and becoming a bit more active."

"Reaching this milestone as a group just proves the huge change that we've all made to our lives, some people who've lost big amounts of weight have probably even saved their lives."

"The support and inspiration we get from our consultant has also been integral to our success."

"Because she's lost weight herself, she understands the ups and downs of slimming and can offer us help and advice based on her own experience, without her I don't think we'd have achieved nearly as much."

The group meets at Baschurch Primary School every Monday.

Bull-test farmer's death accidental, rules coroner

A farmer died in a tragic accident just weeks before Christmas after being hit on the head by a two-year-old bull while carrying out routine TB testing, an inquest heard.

Adrian Owen was knocked backwards by the bull after the animal reared its head, believing it was about to be fed.

Mr Owen, who had been reaching to fix a yoke used to secure bulls for testing, hit his head on metal bars and fell to the ground, according to a statement by Christopher Gittins, a herdsman at Ashwood Farm in Ash Parva, near Whitchurch, where the accident happened. Mr Owen was declared dead later that day.

An inquest at the Guildhall in Shrewsbury yesterday (Thursday) was told the farm's 600 cows had been tested on December 3 last year and the final test of the morning was to be on the farm's two-year-old bull, which lived in an enclosure on its own.

As Mr Owen approached the area, he noticed that a yoke, used to secure the bull while tests were carried out on it, was incorrectly fitted.

Mr Gittins's statement, read out by coroner's officer Gordon Dolan, detailed how Mr Owen, a 33-year-old father of two girls aged three and six, reached through the bars of the bull's enclosure, placing his head in proximity to the yoke.

By Karen Evans

"The bull, anticipating it was going to be fed, lifted its head hitting Mr Owen," the statement said. "I was unable to see clearly but Adrian moved backwards and hit his head on the bars. He then fell into the passageway with blood coming from his nose and ears. I rested his head on my lap."

A vet who was at the farm to help Mr Owen with the testing, called emergency services. Mr Owen, who moved to the farm in 2011 with his partner Jane Edwards and their children, was flown to University Hospital of North Staffordshire.

A postmortem recorded the cause of death as head injury caused by trauma.

Mr John Ellery, senior coroner for Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, said based on the statements he had read and reports received, Mr Owen's death was accidental. Mr Owen's family did not wish to comment after the inquest.

Town eco-store helps M&S win award



Staff members, Mark Andrews, Meriel Turner, Carol Simms and Steve Roberts

AN eco-friendly Marks & Spencer branch in Shropshire has helped the chain become the first retailer to receive the triple award of certification for achievements in carbon, water and waste reduction from the Carbon Trust.

M&S Simply Food Oswestry is one of just four across the country to be retrofitted with eco-features to bring up to 40 per cent in energy savings.

The work was carried out under the company's Plan A - an eco and ethical programme that aims to make M&S the world's most sustainable major retailer by 2015.

Clem Constantine, director of property at M&S, said: "There's a clear business case for managing and reducing our own impact on the environment. It saves money, helps us become more efficient and better prepares M&S for the future."

"Working with the Carbon Trust gives us the knowledge and confidence to push ourselves further and supports us in achieving our ambitious Plan A goals."

NEWS in brief

Gallery hosting flower course

AN eight-week flower painting course started at a gallery in Oswestry this week.

Artist Tereska Shepherd will lead the course, which started on Tuesday, at the Willow Gallery, Willow Street.

The course will run from 10am to 4pm with further sessions on March 25, April 8, May 13 and 20, June 10 and 24, and July 8.

Tereska said: "This inspiring course is ideal for those wishing to capture the colours and forms of flowers in a variety of styles and media, whilst further developing their painting skills."

For more details call the gallery on (01691) 657575.

NHS 111 passes 250,000 calls

AN NHS helpline serving Shropshire recorded its 250,000th call since being taken over by ambulance staff in November on Friday.

The NHS 111 has been run by West Midlands Ambulance Service since November 2011 after previous providers NHS Direct decided to step out of their contract. Since WMAS took over the service, about 97 per cent have been answered within 60 seconds against a national target of 95 per cent. On an increasing number of occasions the staff answer 100 per cent of calls within 60 seconds.

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WELSHPOOL

NEWS
in briefHall hosts series
of craft events

A SERIES of craft fairs will be staged at Welshpool Town Hall to allow craftspeople to promote and sell their produce.

The fairs will be held in the Corn Exchange this Saturday then on April 19 and May 24.

Town clerk Robert Robinson said: "These fairs will provide the opportunity for independent local craft workers and artists to offer a wide range of arts and crafts for sale."

"With free admission for visitors, this also gives you a chance to purchase original and unique work directly from local artisans."

Contact (01938) 553142 or email wtcouncil@btinternet.com

New sponsor deal
for town's ace

WELSHPOOL'S rally champion James Watkins has signed up with one of the largest UK motorsport racewear suppliers, Grand Prix Racewear.

Having claimed the Welsh Championship, Watkins said the deal was "great news for us" with his Nissan Micra adopting a fresh colour scheme to match new race suits.

"Grand Prix Racewear are looking at supporting young drivers in motorsport and we've been in discussions with them for some time, so we'll now become an ambassador for them in the national rallying scene," he said.

Successful venture has school in line for award

TURNING a pound into a successful venture has resulted in Oldford School becoming a front runner for a national award recognising entrepreneurship.

The Enterprise Troopers competition – part of Welsh Government's Youth Entrepreneurship programme – was launched in May 2013 to inspire entrepreneurship in primary school learners, and challenge pupils across Wales to develop their own business ideas ahead of a national final this March.

Enterprising pupils from Oldford Nursery and Infant School in Welshpool came up with the idea to create a stall to sell Christmas decorations at an annual event with Powys County Council.

Pupils were given a pound by the Welsh Government to get started and have now been rewarded further for their efforts with a place in the final of the national competition.

The children had to demonstrate that they understood how and why their business performed as it did and the entry had to include pupil-generated materials.

They had to explain why they chose their enterprise activity, what skills they developed and used and how they benefited from taking part.

The children had to produce evidence of profits generated and the activi-

ties that took place. Yvonne Naylor, headteacher at Oldford, said: "We were absolutely delighted to be put through to the national final. The pupils had worked so hard on their stall so I'm so pleased they have been rewarded."

"They wrote to prospective sponsors for help and the only money they spent was purchasing the stall at the Council Christmas Event. The rest of the supplies for the decorations they got for free."

Now Oldford Nursery and Infant School will go head to head with others from across Wales in a bid to become the national winners at a grand final at the Senedd in Cardiff, on March 25, as the only one short-listed from Powys.

"The competition provides an ideal platform for your school to showcase what they've learnt and how they have benefited," said a spokesman.

Show's donation to riding group



Chairwoman of Riding for the Disabled June Little, second left, receives the cheque from the Guilsfield Show team.

A group which holds riding sessions for disabled people has been handed £600 by organisers of a countryside show.

Guilsfield Show has donated the cash to Montgomeryshire branch of Riding for the Disabled, which meets regularly at Pant, near Oswestry.

Show secretary Sally Jones said: "Last year they entered a national competition, Ride In The Country,

held in Gloucestershire, where they were sixth.

"The group's latest venture is show jumping and the money we have donated will go towards hiring the horses and ponies which obviously have to be of a suitable standard and temperament."

The money was raised at the one-day August show, which attracted thousands of visitors to the show-

ground on the edge of the village, near Welshpool.

Organisers have now chosen the Wales Air Ambulance as the show's charity for this year's event, which will be held on August 14.

There will be joint presidents for 2014, Alun and Joyce Jones.

They have taken over the position from the past president, Ann Cadwalader.

Sea bass nets £4k at town auction

FISHERMEN are renowned for exaggerating the size of their catch, but one happy Welshpool resident hooked a whopper at an auction.

A cased sea bass netted £4,200 when it sold to a Midlands buyer at the auction held in Shrewsbury by Halls.

The work of taxidermist J. Cooper and Son, Hounslow, the sea bass was entered in the auction by a relative of John Miller who lives in Welshpool.

The fish generated a huge amount of interest from bidders in the saleroom, on telephone lines and on the internet.

"It was a big sea bass by one of the best taxidermists, in good condition and fresh to the market – just what a collector is looking for," said Andrew Beeston, Halls' senior auction and valuer.

Another Welshpool vendor was £5,200 better off after an 18th century Indo-Portuguese colonial rosewood bone and tortoiseshell veneered table cabinet was sold to a Danish buyer.

Mr Beeston said: "We sensed a change in attitude towards antique furniture, especially Victorian, which was much more buoyant than it has been for a while."

"The high number of pre-sale enquiries that we received from private buyers across the UK and abroad was very encouraging."

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08 (08) FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCI ZETEC Sea Grey, 7,000 miles	WAS £9,750 NOW £8,750
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05 (55) FORD FIESTA 2.0 ST, Black	DUE IN
05 (54) FORD C-MAX 1.8 GHIA Black	£3,250
04 (04) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5-door, Silver	£3,750
04 (04) AUDI A3 2.0 FSI SPORT Red	£3,850
04 (04) MINI ONE 1.6 3dr (Pepper Pack), Blue, immaculate	£4,950
03 (53) VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.2 SRI, Sapphire Black	£2,250

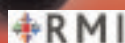
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06 (56) LAND ROVER FREELANDER T4 FREESTYLE 3dr	£6,450
05 (55) KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI XS Silver	£4,850

Automatics

09 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 DESIGN 5-door, Star Silver	£5,650
07 (07) FORD FIESTA 1.6 STYLE CLIMATE 5-door, 11,000 miles only	Due In
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WELSHPOOL

Musical events to be held at Powis Castle

Presentation to hospital



Nigel Pursey presents a syringe driver to Judy Lloyd, senior nurse

THE Lingen Davies Cancer Fund has donated five syringe drivers to Welshpool Hospital, to help in the treatment of people with cancer.

The donation, worth £6,000 will be used to allow patients to stay at home when they would otherwise need to be in hospital to receive their treatment.

Delivering cancer drugs at home requires computerised syringe drivers to deliver the correct dose, au-

tomatically and safely. Judy Lloyd is the senior nurse in Welshpool and arranged the donation. "The majority of cancer patients would much rather spend their final days at home, in as much comfort as possible," she said.

"By using these devices we are able to keep patients comfortable without needing 24 hour nursing care, allowing them to stay at home with their families."

By Pam Kingsley

POWIS Castle will provide a stunning setting for two very different evenings of music this spring.

The National Trust property at Welshpool, will host local singer Beck Sian and acclaimed guitarist Jonathan Kershaw for a night of wine and music on Saturday.

Coming from backgrounds in rock, classical and traditional Celtic music, the pair will be performing as part of their Beautiful Ghosts & Bizarre Tales Tour.

Ruth Scutter from Powis Castle said: "Beck, cousin to popular singer Kate Bush, is a favourite amongst our local residents so this will be a popular event with a fantastic atmosphere."

The concert will take place in the licensed Courtyard Restaurant where the audience will be able to buy drinks and light-snacks throughout the evening. The evening will start at 7.30pm and tickets cost £9.

On April 25 the castle's ballroom will host a more traditional evening of music when musical duo Charme du Hautbois present a programme of rarely-heard original works for oboe and harp from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

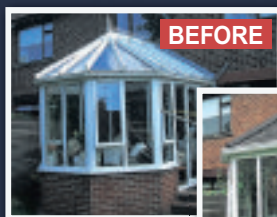
The programme includes the Ommage a Bellini - an exquisite work written for the virtuoso Italian oboist Pasculli to play with his daughter. The players are leading early music and modern instrument specialists and have performed with some of the world's leading orchestras including the English Baroque Soloists, London Symphony, Australia Chamber Orchestra, Gabrieli Consort and Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

Limited tickets are available priced at £12. The evening will start at 7.30pm.

Booking is essential for both events. Visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/powis-castle/things-to-see-and-do/events/ or call (01938) 551929, option 2.

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NEWS

NEWS
in briefLearn skills of
managing money

A FREE three week money management course is being put on in Oswestry starting next month.

CAP Money is run by PurpleFish and will teach budgeting skills and a simple, cash-based system.

Course organiser VJ Lonsdale, said: "This course will help anyone to get more in control of their finances, so they can save, give and prevent debt. The system works by using an online program to help you see where you're spending too much or not enough so it's very specific and you do not need to share your financial state with anyone."

The course is on April 20 visit www.purplefish.org.uk

Coffee morning
will raise funds

THE Get Going Gang, a summer playscheme held in Welshpool during the summer holidays, is holding a fundraising coffee morning tomorrow (Friday) in the Corn Exchange of the town hall from 9am till noon.

There will be a variety of stalls.

The annual meeting of the group will be held at the fire station at 7pm on Wednesday, March 26. The following Saturday they will be having a stand at the Volunteers Day event.

Send a stamped addressed envelope to Get Going Gang, 167 Oldford Rise, Welshpool.

Housing plan aims to tackle county shortfall

by Chris Burn

UP TO 130 homes could be built in Ellesmere – in addition to more than 200 already in the pipeline.

An outline planning application has been submitted to Shropshire Council to develop land south of The Hawthorns in Ellesmere.

The applicants say the scheme, which will include 13 affordable homes, will help the council make up a shortfall of housing land across the county.

They also say the site has been promoted as part of the council's Site Allocation and Management Development Plan – also known as SAMDev – the blueprint for development in the county.

Foodbank plan is drawn up

PLANS are being drawn up for a foodbank to serve an area near the Shropshire border.

Clywd South AM Ken Skates has met with Andrew Sturgess from the Trussell Trust, the national charity which operates the community foodbank projects throughout Britain, and Ruabon businessman David Jones to discuss opening a branch to serve the Dee Valley.

Mr Skates said: "It was a really positive meeting and we are making rapid progress, it's really encouraging. There is still work to be done, but I am hopeful we can get the Clywd South Foodbank open for business within the next few months. Sadly, more and more people across Wales are having to rely on foodbanks because of a variety of factors such as rising costs of fuel and energy bills, static income, high unemployment and changes to benefits. Some 13 million people are currently living below the poverty line in the UK and food poverty is rising."

To help email Ken.Skates@Wales.gov.uk or call (01978) 869058.

But Councillor Alan Clarke, mayor of Ellesmere, questioned whether the extra homes are needed.

More than 200 are being built by The Wharf in the town centre, and three other sites were removed from development so that those homes could go ahead.

"The development by the Wharf will cater for the needs of the town," said Councillor Clarke.

The town council has yet to discuss the new application, he added.

A report on behalf of the applicants said: "This site has been continually promoted throughout the SAMDev process and accepted as a preferred housing allocation."

"As suggested in the SAMDev site assessments, it was considered that this site could provide in the region of 122 dwellings and we are therefore seeking approval of residential development up to 130 dwellings."

The report said the council had yet to demonstrate that it had a five-year supply of housing land.

The new homes would help to support local services, it added, and would not have any 'adverse impacts'. The applicants plan to include a play area and a wildlife corridor through the centre of the site.

People can comment on the plans through the Shropshire Council website.

Tool hire company's award



Phil Nickless and his wife Rosemary receiving the

WELSHPOOL-BASED Phil's Tool Hire is celebrating a big win at the Executive Hire Show Passionate Hirer Awards 2014, which took place at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry.

The company won the Small to Medium Hire Centre category, from 700 outlets throughout the UK and Ireland that members of the show team visited in the lead-up to the annual exhibition.

"I'm extremely chuffed!" said Phil Nickless: "I'm thrilled for all the staff as it means all the effort and hard work that we have put in to provide excellent customer satisfaction has been rewarded."

"We will continue to improve and we would like to thank all our customers, old and new, for supporting us." Following "mystery shopper" visits and calls to their depots, finalists were scrutinised under a broad range of criteria.

These included: presentation and functionality of premises; staff enthusiasm and competence; efficiency in handling orders; quality

Caravan sales firm to open on waste site

OSWESTRY'S former waste recycling centre could soon become a site for a new caravan sales business.

Plans have been lodged with Shropshire Council to change the use of the land at Maesbury Road Industrial Estate for the new enterprise.

The application has been submitted with the council by applicant Euro Source and Find Ltd.

A design statement in support of the bid says: "The site is located off Maesbury Road to the south east side of Oswestry. It is the former Oswestry Borough Council recycling centre. The proposal is to change the use of the site for sale of static and touring caravans."

English Heritage has been consulted as the site is adjacent to Wat's Dyke.

A report from the heritage group urged Shropshire Council to follow national and local policy guidance.

The group's report says: "Although the dyke does not run through the application site, the levelled remains of the earthenwork ban or the infilled ditch may still exist below the current ground level, along with associated archaeological remains."

"The advice of the local planning authority's archaeological advisor should be sought and adhered to."

Shropshire Council aims to make a decision by March 31.

BRITISH



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The British Ironwork Centre in Oswestry Shropshire has been challenged to create a 12ft Gorilla statue from old spoons.

Uri Geller famous TV personality and mystifier who opens his gardens to charity, has asked the Ironwork Centre to create a monstrous gorilla sculpture from a mixture of iron & spoons from members of the British public.

Mr Geller has said: "I use the sculptures in my garden to inspire poorly children. I think it helps them to think positively."

School Campaign

Nearly 20 schools have now joined the campaign

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We asked them for their permission to pass on this story to help other people realise what they may be sitting on and they were only too pleased to allow us to let everyone know that they might be sitting on a gold mine and not even know it!

Like most people, who can only dream of winning the pools, or the lottery, a lot of normal households have a hidden treasure of old gold jewellery, silver jewellery, teapots, trophies, trays and old objet d'art.

Why not get a free valuation from our experts at our roadshow at:

**Monday 17th March 9am till 4pm at
Wynnstay Hotel, Church St, Oswestry,
Shropshire SY11 2SX**

There is no queuing and our expert will give you a one on one appraisal of the value of your treasured possessions in a private area, where there are no prying eyes, watching the process evolve. If you like the valuation our expert will make you the same offer in cash which you can accept or decline at no cost to yourself.

The whole process of valuation is free of charge and very private, so you have nothing to lose and a lot to gain.

Things that you should look for and bring to our roadshow's are absolutely anything that looks like jewellery, whether it is yellow gold, silver or platinum. Any old British or foreign coins, as well as watches and pocket watches. Any chains, bracelets, rings and bangles broken or not and in any condition. If you think it is a diamond ring, bring it along and we will confirm it to be genuine. If you have an old trophy or tankard or any silver coloured items, let us value them for you.

Coin collections urgently wanted

Old war medals and old Masonic medals can be very valuable. You will be surprised to hear that we have paid THOUSANDS of pounds for certain war medals and even the General Service Medal group is worth bringing especially if you have the original box and letter to accompany them.



There are rarely any queues at our events and we can normally attend to every caller within a few minutes. We will give you a free valuation which we back up with a cash offer, there and then. You can accept or decline our offer, so come along and see what we can offer for your old gold or silver jewellery, coins and collectables.

Wanted Now

Antiques and collectables including anything made of Bronze, Ivory, Jade or silver and anything unusual. Pottery & Porcelain items by top makers but especially Chinese bowls and vases.

Of Particular Interest

Gold and silver cigarette cases, Vesta cases, thimbles, Candle sticks, trays and all things silver and all wristwatches by: Rolex, Cartier, Omega, Longines, IWC are particularly collectable.



What do you have waiting to be discovered

Many people are totally unaware of the value of unusual and old items that they own and are just hidden away in drawers around the house. Dealers are now paying record high prices for old jewellery and gold and silver objects and collectables.

Most gold and silver items are no longer fashionable but there are still collectors who we deal with that will pay record high prices for your old gold and silver jewellery, and items. Wristwatches and old fashioned pocket watches can surprise you with their value and you will be amazed by the amount that is currently being offered for such items.

Get looking NOW in your old drawers, cupboards, and jewellery boxes. Look in the attic and the cellar, even old broken or squashed items of jewellery and silver are valuable and worth having appraised at these free road shows.

They will be offering a free valuation service and they will make you an instant cash offer to buy your old jewellery, gold and silver or any old silver or coins that you may have.



IT'S TIME TO CLEAR OUT THE DRAWERS FOR REAL CASH

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NEWS

NEWS
in briefOswestry girls
reach the finals

A trio of girls have reached the regional finals of a speaking competition.

Morgan Darcy Rees-Deacon, Antonia Nicholls and Kitty Davenport, who are pupils at Moreton Hall School in Weston Rhyn, near Oswestry, travelled to Glyndŵr University in Wrexham for the competition.

The girls were representing Oswestry Rotary Club in the area finals of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition.

The team reached the area finals after winning their intermediate competition in December at the Rotary Club of Oswestry competing against schools from Wales, Cheshire, Shropshire and the Wirral.

Funding boost
for Hope House

SHROPSHIRE'S children's hospice is set for a funding boost thanks to staff at Co-operative food stores in the county.

Every other year each Co-operative food store has the opportunity to support a charity of their choice. This year many stores throughout Shropshire from Oswestry in the north down to Ludlow in the south have all chosen to support Hope House Children's Hospice.

A focus of their fundraising this year will be a charity ball on August 30 at The Dining Rooms, Oswestry. Tickets from Sam Teare on 01691 679592.

Life saving treatment pioneered at hospital

by Pam Kingsley

RESEARCHERS at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital have contributed towards finding a treatment for a potentially fatal childhood disease.

The study, carried out through the hospital's partnership with Keele University, has identified that a plant extract – a pigment called quercetin – could help to prevent the damage to nerves associated with the childhood form of motor neuron disease.

Professor Glenn Morris and Dr Heidi Fuller, both based at Oswestry, were part of the collaborative study involving centres in the UK and one in Germany, which was led by Professor Tom Gillingwater from the University of Edinburgh.

Dr Fuller said the results could give hope to families who receive a motor neuron disease diagnosis.

She said: "We are thrilled with the findings of this study which may one day offer hope to families where they have an infant with spinal muscular atrophy – also known as floppy baby syndrome. The study could pave the way for new treatments for SMA, which is a leading genetic cause of death in children."

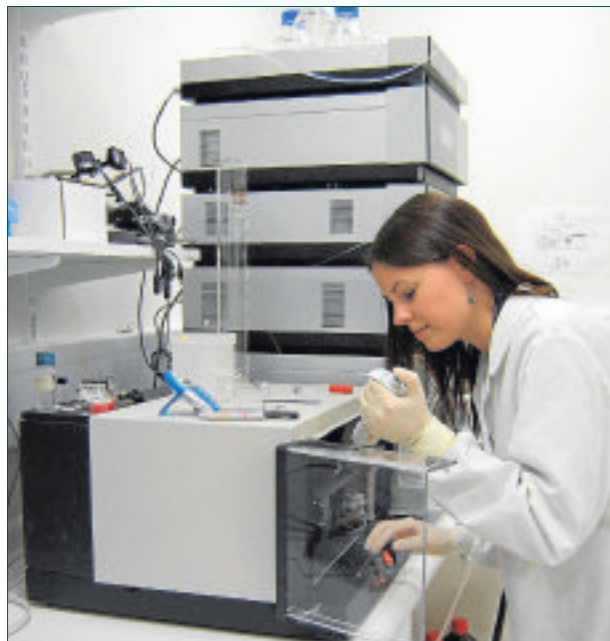
"In tests on zebrafish, flies and mice, scientists in seven centres found that treating the disease with the purified quercetin pigment led to a significant improvement in the health of nerve and muscle cell. Whilst quercetin did not prevent all of the symptoms associated with the disorder, the hope is that in the future this could offer a useful treatment option in the early stages of the disease."

Doug Henderson, acting managing director of The Jennifer Trust for Spinal Muscular Atrophy, welcomed the development. He said: "This is clearly a very interesting and exciting development but we must be mindful that it could be many years before this translates into something more tangible for future generations of people coping with spinal muscular atrophy."

Jenkins, of Maple Avenue, Oswestry, is accused of using a 10 inch long kitchen knife to threaten a 62-year-old woman as she walked across the old Cambrian Railway Line in the Coney Green area of the town on her way to work. Mr Mike Phillips, prosecuting, said the woman was attacked on February 13 at 6.35am.

Jenkins gave no indication of a plea during his appearance at Shrewsbury Magistrates Court last Thursday and the case was committed to the crown court for a plea and case management hearing on June 16.

He was granted bail with the condition not to contact the complainant and placed under an electronically tagged curfew from 7pm to 7am.



Dr Heidi Fuller, Research Associate, at work in the RJA laboratories at Oswestry

Inspector says path must be reopened

A government inspector has ruled that a footpath near Ellesmere must be reopened.

Ramblers have long been campaigning to see the path, which links the Llangollen Canal to Spun Hill, recognised as a right of way.

It was blocked off about 10 years ago.

The path was used as a link between the beauty spots of Blakemere and Colemere and took in an area known as Bluebell Wood.

A public enquiry was held in January after Shropshire Council called for the footpath to be added to the definitive map of public rights of way.

This week the inspector, Barney Grimshaw, made an order saying that the route should be made a public footpath.

Historical evidence showed there was a route in place as far back as 1836 and several people gave evidence at the enquiry to say they had used it in the 1980s and 1990s.

He said the evidence he heard through the enquiry made him conclude that this had become a public footpath as a result of public use from 1980 to 2000.

"At the inquiry it became clear that the route was probably also obstructed in 2000, possible when there was an outbreak of foot and mouth disease," he said.

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OMPAD 12/13-1



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Meet the consultants at a **FREE** Open Evening

Speciality: Hand, Shoulder, Elbow

What: Free mini one-to-one advice sessions

Consultants: Mr C Kelly & Mr S Hay

When: 26th March 2014 at 5.30pm – 8.30pm

Place: Nuffield Health Shrewsbury Hospital, Longden Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY3 9DP



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NEWS

NEWS
in briefCancer care for
Wales improves

THERE is "real evidence" of improvements in cancer care in Wales, Assembly Members have been told.

Health minister Mark Drakeford has written to all AMs.

Mr Drakeford pledged to build on the successes highlighted in the results of the cancer patient experience survey, run in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support, where cancer patients reported that overall their care was either "excellent" or "very good" according to 89 per cent.

On the matter of cancer waiting times, Mr Drakeford said: "It is important we don't judge services on access times alone."

MP challenges
works minister

AN MP from the Shropshire border has challenged cabinet work pensions minister Iain Duncan Smith about why he has not met Britain's main foodbank charity, the Trussell Trust.

Clwyd South MP Susan Elan Jones said with the rise in the use of foodbanks, it was important for Government to find out about grassroots problems.

Miss Jones said the minister, who is in charge of the Department of Work and Pensions, has not met with the leading anti-poverty organisation since last summer, despite repeated request to do so.

Farmland prices hit a new high across the region

FARMLAND prices in the West Midlands have soared to a new high as demand continues to outstrip supply.

An acre of land in the region is now worth £8.250 after an 8.2 per cent increase in the past year.

Further growth in the second half of 2013 means that the region's land has now broken its own record for price in nine consecutive six-month periods.

Growth in prices has been driven by the ongoing surge in demand from farmers hoping to expand their operations, while the amount of land that is coming up for sale is still lagging well behind.

Land in the north west remained the highest valued, despite prices remaining steady at £8,813. The next round of figures nationally could also show some slowing of increases because of floods which have recently hit the south of the country.

Harper Adams University lecturer Charles Cowap, RICS's West Midlands rural spokesman, said: "The record prices continue to demonstrate a confident outlook in the agricultural industry."

"We are lucky in the West Midlands not to have experienced the catastrophic impact of flooding seen elsewhere in the country and this may feed through into even stronger demand for land which is not so flood-

by Iain StJohn

prone. Paradoxically we are also likely to see the focus shifting to land with good access to water as the new Water Bill and Defra's consultation on water abstraction rights work their way through this year.

He added: "Land prices are shaped by supply and demand, and behind the latest figures is high demand chasing a small supply."

"This also reflects the versatility of land as an asset class with a potential for new markets in the area of 'natural capital'."

"Record prices do however raise the bar impossibly high for new entrants to the farming industry, so it will be more important than ever that we keep working hard to find alternative solutions to this longstanding problem which avoid the need to tie up large amounts of capital in land." Prices are expected to continue growing over the year.

School choir teams up with opera group



Pupils performed with a leading opera group on stage at Theatre Hafren.

OSWESTRY School's choir had the opportunity to team up with members of a leading Welsh opera group during a performance of work by George Frederic Handel at a Powys venue.

The school's combined choir took to the stage at Theatre Hafren in Newtown to present a performance of choruses, arias and solos from *Acis and Galatea*.

The performance project was in partnership with Mid Wales Opera as part of its educational outreach programme. The whole production was in association with the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, who hosted rehearsals which the Oswestry and Llanidloes High School choir attended, as well as providing a tour of its conservatoire.

Oswestry School worked alongside the school choir from Llanidloes High School and developed several pieces over a month's intensive rehearsal at both schools.

The project was directed by Mervyn Cousins, musical director and chief executive of the Llangollen International Eisteddfod.

Author's in town for water vole talks

AUTHOR Kate Long, best known for her chart-topping novel, *The Bad Mother's Handbook*, will talk about her other passion in Oswestry later this month.

The county author, a wildlife enthusiast, will be in the town on March 19, to give an illustrated talk describing the joys of watching and getting to know water voles, their cultural history, and the value of monitoring and protecting one of Britain's most endangered mammals.

Kate has been an active member of the Whitechurch Water Vole Group since it started in 2006, searching muddy ditches and streams for signs of these small, russet-furred creatures. She also writes a blog, *About a brook*, about water voles and other wildlife sightings. Since the 1970s, water vole numbers have declined by around 95 per cent due to habitat loss, habitat fragmentation and predation by mink.

"This loss is one of the most rapid and serious recorded declines of any British wild mammal during recent times," she said.

The talk has been arranged by the Oswestry Branch of Shropshire Wildlife Trust and takes place at the Methodist Church Hall, Castle Street, Oswestry, starting at 7.30pm. Entry costs £2 for Trust members and £3 for non-members and includes refreshments.

Bilingual Concert

With the
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MOTHER'S DAY

Time running out to find that Mother's Day treat



Spoil your mum on that special day.

MOTHER'S Day falls on March 30 this year, so time is running out to decide on a treat to show your appreciation for your lovely mum.

Booking a meal in her favourite restaurant or lunch in a nice local café could be the perfect Mother's Day treat. If she is a little more adventurous with her taste buds, then this could be the perfect opportunity for you to try somewhere new together.

Afternoon tea is a classic Mother's Day treat. There are plenty of places in

Advertisement feature

and around the Potteries which serve up a delicious array of sandwiches and cakes with lovely cups of tea.

This could be the perfect relaxing treat for your mum and she'll love the variety of food and drink that she can sample. Best of all, it gives you the chance to spend some quality time together.

If you're feeling a little strapped for cash, then maybe you could whip up something special for her in the kitchen yourself. Cook her favourite recipe or bake her a Mother's Day cake. She'll appreciate the sentiment

and hard work that goes into it, even if the cooking may never quite live up to hers.

A great way to do Mother's Day on a budget is to take your mum on a nice Mother's Day walk. If she is a big fan of the great outdoors, then she will love nothing more than the two of you putting on your walking boots.

There is plenty of beautiful scenery so get planning a route - and maybe you could stop off at a country pub on the way.

If there are any plays or concerts which you think your mum might enjoy then now is the perfect time to treat her to some tickets.

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Sunday 30th March 2014

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BUSINESS

NEWS
in briefBusiness support
for music festival

AFTER the extraordinary success of its first ten-day season a year ago, Whittington International Chamber Music Festival has won the support of 10 local business sponsors.

This will help organisers bring 11 World class musicians back to the area for its Schubert Fest from May 6 to 9.

With an outreach programme involving local schools and colleges, this year Derwen College is playing a large part.

Anyone aged eight to 25 can get into the concerts free, and tickets are only £12 to everyone else.

Full details can be found at www.whittingtonmusicfestival.org.uk

Business Women
meet in Oswestry

THE Oswestry Business and Professional Women's group will be taking part in an international evening at the Wynnstay Hotel, Church Street, on March 21.

Rose Paterson, wife of north Shropshire MP Owen, will be speaking on the Mongol Derby which the couple entered last year.

The Mongol Derby is the World's longest horse race, which takes place across 1000kms of pristine Mongolian steppe.

For details of future events contact group president Alison Davies on (01691) 657997.

Restaurant planned for former furniture store

A FORMER Oswestry furniture store which was once earmarked for the town's first Muslim prayer centre is set to become a restaurant and cocktail bar.

Oswestry Muslim Society had hoped to convert the former Oswald Road Fine Furniture shop into a meeting place but later abandoned the plans.

Plans have now been lodged to turn the building into a restaurant and cocktail bar, as well as to convert other parts of the premises into flats.

The application has been submitted to Shropshire Council by Mr P&R Lepone. A design and access statement prepared by consultants Design and Planning Associates outlines the proposal.

The statement says: "Planning permission is sought to convert the former Oswald Road Furniture Shop into a restaurant together with a cocktail bar on the upper ground floor and three flats in multiple occupation on the lower ground floor. The site is located within the conservation area of Oswestry town centre.

"The property to which this application relates was formerly a Presbyterian Church built in 1888 and has been occupied as a furniture store for 24 years.

"The front of the building consists of an impressive portico with decorative fenestration and parapets

By Iain St John

constructed in a neo classical style. The footprint of the building is not proposed to be altered as part of the conversion works.

"The conversion will be split over two levels namely the upper ground floor and the lower ground floor level."

Shropshire Council hopes to make a decision on the application by April 24.

Oswestry Muslim Society was given permission to use the building for a prayer centre last year.

But the plans were eventually abandoned and the group continues to meet regularly at the Eastern Oswestry Community Centre as it searches for its own permanent home.

The group's plans for Oswald Road attracted opposition from the British National Party and more than 70 people wrote to Shropshire Council objecting to the proposal, with more than 40 people writing in support.

Builders merchants is five years old



JC Evans' growth is all the more impressive in an industry that has been hard-hit by the recession

JC Evans is one of Shropshire's most trusted independent builders merchants.

Marking five years' trading should be cause for celebration in any industry, but JC Evans' growth is all the more impressive in an industry that has been hard-hit by the recession.

"When I set up the builders yard I didn't envisage that we would have grown from specialising in loose aggregate

and landscaping supplies to supplying local and national builders with everything from bricks and blocks to plasterboard and ply," said Jonathon Evans, who can still be found taking a very hands-on role within the business.

Recent winds have seen a good trade in fence panels and posts and dry weekends bring the public in looking for deals on paving and decorative

stone. Twelve months ago when most businesses were happy to tread water mid recession, JC Evans opened their impressive kitchen and bathroom showroom.

Neil Jones, general manager, said: "It is a testament to the strength of our company that we have been able to open a showroom that is the envy of many national chains."

March is shaping up nicely for town

WITH Oswestry Literary Festival looming large and the long overdue sunshine that made an appearance last weekend, March is shaping up to be a great month locally.

You can hardly fail to notice the buzz around this festival which has captured the imagination of so many local people and now attracts world renowned authors to the town. Anything that puts Oswestry on the map in such a positive light can only be a good thing for us all. What is more, you don't have to be a bookworm to find something of interest you as there are all types of activities that include a smattering of music, poetry and prose to suit all tastes, ages and interests.

So, if you haven't already done so, take the time to review the programme of events, bring your family and friends into town and showcase all of the positives that Oswestry has to offer.

Oswestry Chamber of Commerce meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the Wynnstay Hotel from 6pm to 7pm. The AGM issue April 2. Visitors and members are guaranteed a warm welcome. For more details visit www.oswestrychamber.org.uk or call Heather Noble on (01691) 700800.

Heather Noble
Chairman
Oswestry Chamber of Commerce

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Upper Brook Street, Oswestry, Shropshire.

A detached double fronted period property situated close to the centre of this attractive market town. The property offers around 1000 sq ft of accommodation and was last used as offices but is suitable for reinstatement as a family home having garden and off road parking. Hallway, three reception rooms, w.c. on the ground floor and two bedrooms and kitchen to first floor. Potential for three bedrooms. EPC Rating: G

Guide Price: £88,000+

For further information please contact the auctioneer on
0116 2549654 www.grahampenny.com

Web firm looking to future at new site

MOGHILL Web Services is looking towards a bright future with a new, spacious office in Oswestry town centre.

The company builds websites for small businesses and not-for-profit organisations both locally and across the UK and Europe – and has just marked a record month.

But last October disaster struck when their previous landlords – Shropshire Housing Alliance – closed down their office at Glovers Meadow, Oswestry, without warning, leaving Moghill without a home.

Director Fiona Barnes said: "It was a huge blow for us to suddenly not have an office, but we were determined to turn it into a positive.

"Luckily our new office in Church Street became available and we were able to move in and get set up very quickly.

"Now our town centre location means our visibility has improved and it's really helped our business – so much so that we have just enjoyed our record month for business."

Fiona and husband Patrick started Moghill from their Gobowen home in 2011, setting up their first office in Glovers Meadow in 2012. Last year they took on their first employee, web designer Tim Ord.

£8m boost to economy hopes with eisteddfod

THE Mid Wales economy is set for an £8 million boost when it hosts one of Britain's biggest cultural events next year.

The national Eisteddfod will take place in the Meifod area, near Welshpool, in August next year and economic impact studies from previous eisteddfods have shown an area can benefit between £6 million and £8 million in revenue.

Russell George, Montgomeryshire AM, launched the run-up to the event with a coffee morning and said the eisteddfod will bring tens of thousands of people to Mid Wales.

The event is expected to attract around 160,000 to the area and Eisteddfod officials said people from across the country will flock to enjoy the music, recitals and dancing.

Mr George said: "The national Eisteddfod is a major event in the Welsh cultural calendar and we should be very proud to have it once again coming to Montgomeryshire next year.

"It is not only an important cultural and social event for the people of and visitors to Wales, but it will have a significant economic impact on the local area with tens of thousands of people visiting the event during the week-long event.

"Local businesses, accommodation providers and visitor attractions can benefit from prior to, during and

By Karen Evans

after this major event. This is an opportunity to put Montgomeryshire on the national and international map. Let's get involved and highlight what a great place Montgomeryshire is."

Elfed Roberts, national Eisteddfod chief executive, said he expected Montgomeryshire to receive a huge financial boost from the event. He said: "We work closely with local businesses and companies over a number of months to try to maximise the economic boost to the area.

"A number of independent reports over the past decade have shown a boost of £6 million to £8 million in an area during the week. By working in the local area for two years beforehand, supporting all the community events and activities taking place in the name of the Eisteddfod, we try to make sure people know how to make the most of the Eisteddfod's visit."

Printing Solutions have all the answers



Wedding stationery is a speciality.

BASED in Chirk, Printing Solutions is run by Sue Horsler and has been trading since August 2011.

With over 10 years of experience in the printing industry the company is able to offer a fast, efficient, cost-effective yet personal, complete printing service for Chirk, Llangollen, Oswestry, Wrexham and surrounding areas.

"We have been creating bespoke wedding stationery for customers for a some time and have recently started to exhibit our range at local wedding fayres," said Sue.

"We have been delighted with the positive feedback from two events held at local hotels during March.

"Whether you are getting married this year and would like help in creating your own wedding stationery or you are getting married next year and want to send out "save the date cards" we can help."

The business is open Monday to Friday between 10am – 2pm, although appointments can be made outside these hours if required.

NEWS in brief

Seminar will help with law changes

IF you are in business, it can be daunting when faced with the constant changes in employment law and best HR practice.

Law firm Lanyon Bowdler is offering a free employment law update seminar to be held on March 27 at the Wynnistay Hotel on Church Street in Oswestry.

The event will equip employers with a practical update on the latest developments affecting the workplace and employee relations. The seminar will start at 9am and conclude at 12noon, and refreshments will be provided.

To book, contact Rachel Donaghey on email rachel.donaghey@lblaw.co.uk

Supermarket work underway

AN Oswestry company is building a new supermarket which will create 130 new jobs at Llangollen.

A turf cutting ceremony has been held at the site of the new Dobson and Crowther print works in Llangollen, which will eventually see the company relocate and a new Sainsbury's supermarket built on its current site.

J-Ross Developments Ltd started work on the 45,000 sq ft purpose built factory for Dobson and Crowther at the Cilmedw site.

The supermarket development will start later in 2014.

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NEWS

NEWS
in brief

Walkers urged to get on their feet

PEOPLE in Oswestry are being encouraged to get out on their feet and discover the wonders of walking during a free short walks festival from May 3-10.

During Get Walking Week, Oswestry Walking for Health will be taking people on free short walks, making it easier for them to take their first steps into a healthier lifestyle.

For more information about this local Get Walking Week event, please contact Liz Evans on (01743) 255068 or email liz.evans@shropshire.gov.uk

Further details about the national Get Walking Week can be obtained on (0207) 339 8531.

Police reveal meeting dates

POLICE will be holding three Partners and Communities Together meetings in Oswestry in the next few weeks.

The meetings are for residents to talk about issues they have concerns about and get advice.

West Felton's pub car park will host the Oswestry Rural South surgery on March 21 at 7pm.

The Oswestry Central surgery will be on March 24 at Oswestry Library in Castle View at 11am and the Oswestry Rural North surgery will be held at Weston Rhyn Institute on March 26 at 11am.

Wildlife groups calling for answers to flooding

by Pam Kingsley

WILDLIFE trusts on both sides of the Shropshire-Powys border are highlighting the need for more natural solutions to flood control.

It follows the recent extreme weather which has devastated communities across the country.

Shropshire Wildlife Trust and Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust are both keen to use natural landscaping to alleviate flooding along the River Severn.

Clive Faulkner, of the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, said: "Vegetation acts as a sponge, soaking up water, storing it for dry periods and releasing it gradually. This can reduce the height, effects and, ultimately, the cost of floodwater."

Singers scoop festival prizes

TALENTED singers from a Shropshire school proved they can hit all the right notes after scooping 18 awards at a popular music festival.

Students from Ellesmere College competed at the Oswestry Music Festival last weekend and wowed judges with a string of breathtaking performances.

More than 250 young musicians from Shropshire, Staffordshire, Cheshire and Wales competed in 75 different classes from piano, woodwind, brass and strings to vocal classes. And the youngsters from Ellesmere came first in 11 categories with six second place finishes and one third. Pupils from the Chapel School Choir were successful in the under 21 category and their joy was matched by youngsters in the Lower School Choir who also won first place despite having an average age of just 12. The college's Senior Orchestra won the under 25 Youth Orchestra Category meanwhile pupils in the Clarinet Quartet won The Whittington Chamber Music Prize.

"Sustainable land management practices can increase the water retention capacity of the environment, alleviating the effects of both droughts and floods."

"We know that the land management drastically affects the quantity of water that runs through the landscape into our towns and cities. The removal of vegetation such as wetlands, peat lands, floodplains, hedgerows and woodlands makes the countryside less absorbent." Furthermore, large compacted or drained fields, dredged riverbeds, concrete roads and car parks all increase the rate that water flows through the landscape and into people's homes and businesses."

Different habitats play significant roles to alleviate flooding. Broad-leaved woodland serves both as a natural umbrella and a sponge, while wet pasture, wetlands and water meadows soak up and store rainwater.

The trust is also advocating sustainable drainage systems in urban areas which allow for the storage of floodwaters whilst providing wildlife havens. One site which has already been successful is the Severn Farm Ponds nature reserve, which is designed to accommodate excess water from the A483 Welshpool bypass and the surrounding industrial estate.

Pupils sample Cambridge life



Hannah West, of Selattyn Primary School, researching

TWELVE Year 6 primary school pupils from Oswestry were given the opportunity to visit the UK's top university as part of The Marches Futures Award.

Organised by The Marches School, the trip to tCambridge was designed to ignite the aspirations of the students. The award aims to encourage pupils to begin thinking about their ambitions and to be inspired by the possibilities available to them. During their visit, pupils took part in an 'Imaginary Lands' workshop in the Old Library in St John's College and enjoyed a full tour of the college grounds.

During the workshop, pupils developed their research skills as they examined documents on display. Maisie Watkin, a Year 6 pupil at Whittington Primary School, said: "I really enjoyed seeing the library. I had no idea that many books existed. I would love for this trip to be organised again so that my younger sisters can participate. The whole day has been a huge success and I hope it continues to be."

New site on right tracks for railway

A railway attraction on the Welsh border is steaming ahead with a new-look website.

The Llangollen Railway says its new look site, which allows customers to book online, is now attracting more than 20,000 hits a month. Ticket sales are booming since online booking was launched late last year.

Holly Evans, of Llangollen Railway, said: "We are really pleased with the website and are already seeing the benefits with hundreds of people buying tickets through the site, which is great."

Oswestry-based Pop Creative, designed the internet site. Adrian Grindley, director of Pop Creative, said online booking systems were increasingly important for organisations.

"Most tourist attractions are seasonal, so the beauty of a good website which has a booking function is that you can effectively be open for business 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year," he said.

"One of the railway's key aims for the website was to generate sales before they reached their peak season. It's great to see the website getting plenty of traffic, and hopefully it will help Llangollen Railway go from strength to strength."

Visit www.llangollen-railway.co.uk

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Drivetime

It's a class act

By Andy Enright

How can it be the car Mercedes-Benz calls its best-selling model has, for so long, felt a bit of an underachiever?

The C-Class ought to have been all the company knows about luxury saloons distilled into a smaller form, but for many years it was instead a car which was short on quality and long on price tag.

The 2007 model repaired much of its reputation and the subsequent 2011 facelift brought even more features and better efficiency, but in this country, the C-Class always lagged a distant third in the compact executive sales charts.

Much has changed in the interim though. The introduction of a smaller four-door saloon, the CLA, has allowed the C-Class to become a bit bigger and a good deal more luxurious. The latest car is a fresh design from the ground up and it shows.

The diesel engines include a 2.1-litre C220 BlueTEC unit good for 170PS, plus you can talk to your dealer about feebler C200 BlueTEC and pokier C250 BlueTEC offerings. Petrol-wise, there's a 184PS C200 unit.

Granted, it's not a very wide range of engines to duke it out with BMW and Audi but expect more exciting options to arrive in due course.

The C300 BlueTEC HYBRID combines a four-cylinder 204PS diesel engine with a compact 27PS electric motor and looks interesting, as does the pros-

pect of a plug-in hybrid model. In the here and now, there's a choice of two six-speed manual transmissions or an improved version of the 7G-TRONIC automatic gearbox. The electromechanical Direct Steer system is also fitted as standard.

Looking at the exterior of this C-Class, you'd be forgiven for thinking this was the most conservative of styling directions. Any notionally car-literate person would be able to tell you it was a Mercedes C-Class, even if they'd never clapped eyes on the thing before.

It's tidily executed, with hints of the latest S-Class in its detailing. The long bonnet, a passenger compartment set well back and short overhangs define the C-Class's classic proportions. Large wheels emphasise the rear and



.....
'Halogen headlamps are fitted as standard, but there are also two LED options'

communicate a stylishly sporty character.

Halogen headlamps are fitted as standard, but there are also two LED options offered: a static system and a dynamic version with an LED Intelligent Light System.

Drop inside and you'll see where this Mercedes differentiates itself. It's radically different to its predecessor with a broad centre console swooping between the front occupants.

In automatic vehicles, a large one-piece centre console panel performs an elegant sweep from the centre air vents to the armrest. On vehicles with manual transmission, the centre console is slightly steeper and features two separate trim elements in order to create ample space for ergonomic operation of the shift lever.

Prices for the C200 petrol start at

around £27,000, while for a C200 BlueTEC diesel, you'll pay from around £29,500. There are three trim levels, SE, Sport and AMG Line.

Talks

To gain an insight into quite how deep the thought process behind the new C-Class is, consider this. The air conditioning system talks to the car's satellite navigation system. When you enter a tunnel, rather than start sucking diesel fumes into the cabin from that labouring art, the car knows it's entering a tunnel and automatically switches the air conditioning to recirculate, bringing in fresh air only when you've emerged again.

That's smart. As indeed is the Collision Prevention Assist Plus system. When a danger of collision persists and the driver fails to respond, the

system is able to carry out autonomous braking at speeds of up to 125mph, thereby reducing the severity of collisions with slower or stopping vehicles. The system also brakes in response to stationary vehicles at a speed of up to 31mph, and is able to prevent rear-end collisions at speeds of up to 25mph.

It doesn't take long to see how Mercedes has forged ahead with efficiency. Where the last C220 diesel emitted 117g/km of carbon dioxide, the latest model trims that down to just 103g/km, with fuel economy improving from 64.2mpg to 70.6mpg.

Even the entry-level petrol model, the C180, gets numbers that not so long ago would have been very respectable indeed for a diesel car in this sector: think 56.5mpg and 166g/km.

The C-Class Saloon. The New Generation. Just £285 per month.

The latest C-Class Saloon looks more agile and dynamic than ever before. With the AMG Sport Edition model offering powerful AMG bodystyling, 17" alloy wheels, coloured AMG sports seats and an array of signature AMG details, this really is a model you just have to experience for yourself.

Representative example for a Mercedes-Benz C 220 CDI AMG Sport Edition Saloon Manual*

Monthly Payments	£285.00
On the Road Price	£27,501.35
Customer Deposit	£3,832.00
Retailer Deposit Contribution	£3,350.00
Total Deposit	£7,182.00
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Skoda – vRS is now hotter

By Andy Enright

With the original Fabia vRS, the Czech maker was the first to bring a diesel engine to the hot hatch sector. But that car, also available in an estate version, took sense and sensibility just a shade too far for some.

Skoda needs younger buyers, which is why it needs a car like this second generation Fabia vRS.

Here is high technology given its head. The 1.4-litre TSI petrol engine combines turbocharging and supercharging. The DSG twin-clutch semi-automatic gearbox has seven speeds and steering wheel paddle-shifters so you can imagine yourself in Skoda's Fabia S2000 World Rally Car.

And there's an XDS limited slip differential

to get all 178bhp down onto the tarmac, even when you're cornering more sharply than you'd have ever thought possible in a Skoda.

If you ever doubted this to be a brand which could match and beat the best technology of its rivals, then you need to try this car. Not for nothing has the 1.4 TSI twin-charge engine which resides under this Fabia's bonnet won several international awards.

Embracing the idea it's possible to have the best of both worlds, it works on the principle that even modern turbochargers take a while to get into their stride, so it employs a supercharger as well to boost performance at low engine speeds.

With the turbo and supercharger working in tandem, maximum torque is produced over a much wider section of the rev range, giving the car better low speed pulling power before the supercharger is decoupled and the turbo alone ignites the surge to the red line.



It's an expensive and somewhat complex solution but very effective with the switch from supercharger to turbo being almost seamless – and very rapid, rest to 60 detaining you for just 7.3 seconds on the way to 139mph, making this Skoda just about a match for anything in its class.

So potent is this engine in fact that, rather surprisingly, no one across the Volkswagen Group has got around to producing a manual gearbox capable of coping with it, meaning that, as with the SEAT Ibiza Cupra, the VW

Polo GTI and the Audi A1 1.4 TSI, the only option open to potential Fabia vRS customers is an automatic.

But it's some automatic. This twin-clutch DSG unit has seven speeds you can access through paddle-shifters on the steering wheel if you don't want to simply leave the transmission to do its own thing.

There are some issues with it though. The first gear is set a little low, so you have to change up while you are emerging from a junction, which means fumbling around the steer-

ing wheel as the paddle-shifters are attached to it rather than in a fixed position behind.

Get used to these little quirks though and you'll find it all comes together on the open road.

Through fast-flowing bends, it all works a treat and rather suits the more mature approach of this most sensible of hot hatches/estates.

Expect to pay around £16,000 to £17,000 for your Fabia vRS, depending on the bodystyle and options you choose, and the estate carries an £850 premium over the five-door hatch.

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The Fabia Hatch SE includes 15" alloy wheels, electric door mirrors, metallic paint and manual air conditioning

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*Price refers to the ŠKODA Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS model in Brilliant Silver metallic and Denim Blue metallic paint with a temporary spare steel wheel only, while stocks last. Available on new retail orders subject to availability before the 31 March 2014. Available for over 18s. Retail sales only. Prices and specifications are accurate at time of print. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Model shown is Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS.

Official Fuel Consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS: Urban 38.7 (7.3), Extra Urban 62.8 (4.5), Combined 51.4 (5.5). CO₂ emissions for the Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS 128g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

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Drivetime



i10 – it's an inspired choice

Inspiration comes from everywhere, but it's what you do with it that counts. The award-winning new generation Hyundai i10 is inspired by the demand for stylish, simple but clever products.

The i10's seating, dashboard and controls are placed perfectly for optimum convenience and comfort, and each surface looks and feels fantastic because of the attention given to the quality of the materials.

The i10 has been praised for its exemplary levels of refinement, driving characteristics, safety and value, and has already received awards from Top Gear magazine, Carbuyer and What Car?.

The entry-level S Trim, starting at £8,345 on the road, has daytime running lights, central locking, electric front windows, USB with AUX connection and a host of safety equipment including Electronic Stability Programme (ESP), six airbags, tyre pressure monitoring and Vehicle Stability Management (VSM).

The mid-range SE trim has in addition electric rear windows, body-coloured door handles, electric and heated door mirrors, air conditioning and driver's-seat height-adjustment as standard.

The Premium trim adds LED daytime running lights, integrated door mirror indicators, steering wheel controls, Bluetooth with voice recognition, leather steering wheel and gear knob, and 14in alloy wheels.

There is more to the new generation i10 than just impeccable style – expect more space, improved efficiency and low running costs. With impressive fuel economy, you'll be exempt from road tax in the first year. The SE Blue Drive model adds Intelligent Stop & Go, switching the engine off when coming to a halt and starting it again when depressing the clutch, resulting in lower CO2 emissions and fuel consumption.

In terms of residual values, the i10 retains, on average, 50 per cent of its value over three years/30,000 miles, and at the What Car? Awards Roll of Honour, the i10 was judged to be the most cost-effective car to live with costing just 29 pence per mile.

See the new generation i10 today, at JT Hughes, Telford and Oswestry.

Leading technologies are delivered at great prices

Looking great on the outside doesn't mean having to give up creature comforts on the inside, or miss out on the latest hot technology, thanks to Hyundai's efficient Blue Drive technologies.

Trims for the new Hyundai ix35 now feature five clearly defined specification levels: entry-level S, mid-range SE, and SE Nav and two range-topping trims, Premium and Premium Panorama.

For a car which starts from less than £17,000, it's full of features to enrich your driving experience.

USB, aux and iPod connections are standard across the ix35 range. Some models also feature Bluetooth with voice recognition so you can call home, or work, while on the road and stream music wirelessly with a compatible device.

Satellite navigation is accessed through a large, clear touch screen with a clever rear-view camera to make parking in tricky spaces easy.

Go (ISG) switches the engine off and on seamlessly to save fuel when stopped in traffic, at lights. Hill-start Assist Control cleverly stops the new ix35 from rolling backwards.

The New ix35's all-round ability means it's a capable towing vehicle

too – up to 750kg unbraked, rising to 2,000kg braked with the manual 2.0 litre CRDi engine, and 1,600kg with the automatic.

The boot offers 591 litres of space, which is among the best in class. Split-folding rear seats come as standard, too, and with the seats folded flat the capacity expands to 1,436 litres.

The New ix35 is backed by an industry-leading five-year 'triple care' assurance package.

This includes five years unlimited mileage warranty, five years free roadside assistance and five years of annual vehicle health checks.

See the new ix35 today, at JT Hughes, Telford and Oswestry.



New Generation i10

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Inspiration comes from everywhere, but it's what you do with it that counts.

Personal Contract Purchase Representative Example. New Generation i10 SE 1.0

24 Monthly Payments of	£99.00	Total Amount Payable	£10,466.50
On the Road Price	£9,750.00	Fixed Rate of Interest	3.04%
Customer Deposit	£2,688.00	Duration of Agreement	2 years
Hyundai Deposit Contribution	£250.00	Annual Mileage	10,000
Amount of Credit	£6,812.00	Excess Mileage Charge Per Mile	14.9p
Interest Charges	£716.50	Representative APR	5.9%*
Optional Final Payment	£5,152.50		

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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for New Generation i10 range: Urban 35.3 (8.0) – 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 55.4 (5.1) – 76.3 (3.7), Combined 45.6 (6.2) – 65.7 (4.3), CO2 Emissions 142 – 98 g/km. Fuel consumption figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.

Model shown is the i10 SE 1.0 at £9,750 in Stardust Grey metallic paint at £455 included. On the road (OTR) price shown includes customer saving discount where applicable, VAT where applicable, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' Road Fund Licence. *5.9% APR available on all New Generation i10 models. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available, (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Terms and conditions apply. Finance subject to status. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Hyundai Motor Finance RHI 1SR. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. All offers, finance and savings are subject to availability and are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK (excluding Channel Islands or Isle of Man), between 30th January and 31st March 2014, inclusive, sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised dealers. Offers are not available for customers under the Hyundai Affinity Programme. 5 Year Warranty terms and exclusions apply. Visit www.hyundai.co.uk/owning or ask your local dealer for details.



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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for ix35 range: Urban 32.5 (8.7) – 44.8 (6.3), Extra Urban 47.1 (6.0) – 58.9 (4.8), Combined 40.4 (7.0) – 53.3 (5.3), CO2 Emissions 183 – 139 g/km. Fuel consumption figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.

The Offer: 0% finance available on Hyundai ix35 1.6 GDI 2WD petrol manual on Conditional Sale between 1st October and 31st December 2013. 50% minimum deposit required. *Model shown: ix35 1.6 GDI 2WD petrol manual at £17,515 OTR including Sleek Silver metallic paint at £520, £229 per month with £9,271 deposit over 36 month term. Finance subject to status. Terms & Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Hyundai Motor Finance RHI 1SR. Offers are not available for customers under the Hyundai Affinity Programme. 5 Year Unlimited Mileage Warranty: terms and exclusions apply. Visit www.hyundai.co.uk/owning or ask your local dealer.

Drivetime

Kia Sportage refreshed

By David Banner

It's easy to believe the market for compact SUVs hasn't changed all that much in the last ten years, but it's now radically different and the biggest beneficiary of these changes has been Kia, and more specifically its Sportage.

That car's been fettled and refreshed now and still looks the best budget 4x4 not a whole lot of money can buy.

As before, you get a choice of four powerplants. There are 1.7 or 2.0-litre common-rail diesels with 113 and 134bhp respectively – or 1.6 and 2.0-litre petrols packing 138 and 161bhp. Performance is similar with the 2.0-litre units as both manage the 0-62mph trial in under 11 seconds with the manual gearbox installed.

Entry level cars have front wheel-drive, with

upper spec models getting all-wheel traction. The Sportage uses a part-time all-wheel-drive system which sends 100 per cent of power to the front wheels unless slippage is detected and it's automatically diverted to the rear.

There's a lock mode for off-road driving which splits the available power 50/50 between the front and rear wheels, but it only operates below 25mph.

All Sportage models have Hillstart Assist Control to help with uphill getaways and Downhill Brake Control to provide reassurance on steep descents.

The latest car features Kia's Flex Steer system on selected models. This allows the driver to choose between three different levels of power assistance.

'Comfort' mode provides increased help for parking or manoeuvring in tight areas, while 'Sport' lessens the assistance for increased feel and stability at higher speeds. There is also a 'Normal' setting.

In addition to this, the windscreen glass has



been modified to reduce noise entering the cabin.

Otherwise, it's still as practical as ever. It just feels a little better built. The generous dimensions of the Sportage are carried over. There's a substantial boot measuring in at 564 litres when the rear seats are occupied – or 1,353 litres when they're folded down. Storage space inside the Sportage includes a six-litre centre console bin, large door pockets and a glovebox that's air-conditioned on some models.

Prices kick off at around £17,500, which keeps things real and Kia has done a spot of tinkering with the mix of the model line-up. Two additional variants, at the top and bottom, have been added to the team sheet to

further broaden the appeal to customers – an all-wheel drive 2.0 CRDi at entry level and the 1.7 CRDi turbodiesel is now an option on the top spec two-wheel drive model.

The 1.6-litre direct-injection petrol unit and 1.7-litre turbodiesel made their debuts in the Sportage and remain the mainstays of the range in the UK.

Equipment levels have also been subtly boosted across the range.

The best-performing Sportage from an economy and emissions perspective is the front-wheel drive 1.7 CRDi diesel which manages 54.3mpg and 135g/km. Should you choose petrol power, the 1.6 GDI powerplant returns a combined fuel figure of 44.1mpg and

emissions of 149g/km. Should you want an all-wheel drive 2.0-litre diesel, you're looking at 49.6mpg and 149g/km.

Beware opting for the automatic version though, as this puts a bit of a dent into the efficiency metrics at 40.9mpg and 179g/km.

Like the rest of the Kia range, the Sportage is sold with a seven-year or 100,000-mile warranty. It is fully transferable should the car be sold before the time or mileage limits are reached.

Fixed cost servicing brings additional peace of mind via the Kia Care-3 and Care-3 Plus servicing package, offering retail customers inflation-proof servicing for the first three or five years.

NU 14 REG

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PER MONTH

REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE: KIA RIO HATCHBACK 1.25 I 5DR

36 monthly payments	Cash price	Customer deposit	Deposit contribution	Amount of credit	Total charge for credit	Total amount payable	GMFV (optional final payment)	Mileage per annum	Excess mileage charge (pence per mile)	Term	Borrowing rate (fixed)	4.9% APR Representative
£169.87	£9,670.00	£169.00	£350.00	£9,151.00	£980.57	£10,650.57	£4,016.25	6,000	14.9	37 months	2.52%	

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The Power to Surprise

Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the vehicles shown are Highest: KIA Sportage '1' 1.6 GDI 133bhp, M6: Urban 32.1 (8.8) – 52.3 (5.4), Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) – 78.5 (3.6), Combined 42.8 (6.6) – 67.3 (4.2). CO₂ emissions are 149 g/km. Lowest: KIA Picanto 3-door '1' 1.0 68bhp, M5: Urban 52.3 (5.4), Extra Urban 78.5 (3.6), Combined 67.3 (4.2). CO₂ emissions are 99 g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. 7 year /100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For terms and exclusions visit kia.co.uk or see your local dealer. Price and specification is subject to change without notice. cee'd 5-dr 'VR7' 1.4 98bhp 6-speed manual @ £13,995 including customer saving of £1,000 and excluding optional metallic paint at £475. Sportage '1' 1.6 GDI 133bhp 6-speed manual @ £17,495 On The Road (OTR) excluding metallic paint at £495 OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and Vehicle First Registration Fee. Retail customers only. Customer savings vary by model derivative. Ask your dealer for full details. 13 years' servicing (Kia Care-3) for £99 offer is only valid on applicable 'VR7' models. Log onto kia.co.uk/care3 for full details. *36 month Contract Hire offer requires: Initial payment £2268 inc VAT followed by 35 payments of £189, charges of 5.29p/m apply if agreed mileage of 8,000 per annum is exceeded. All quotations are subject to approval. Kia Contract Hire reserves the right to amend quotations. Subject to availability on vehicles registered before 31 March 2014. Participating dealers only. *4.9% APR representative available on Kia Conditional Sale on Picanto, Rio and cee'd models. 10% minimum deposit required on cee'd models. Maximum term of 36 months. Offer not available in conjunction with any other offer.

Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING



Smallholding comes with 14 acres of land

A spacious country smallholding only three miles from both Llanfyllin and Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant is for sale with James & Co. Pant yr Helyg at Brithdir includes various out-buildings, workshops and sheds, with pasture land and gardens totalling about 14 acres. There is a porch, spacious reception hall with exposed stone wall, study with beamed ceiling, and a side conservatory.

The dining room is full of character with exposed timbers, and the living room includes a large stone inglenook fireplace with log burner. There is also a breakfast room with archway to the kitchen and utility. A bathroom and rear conservatory complete the ground floor accommodation. Upstairs are three double bedrooms, one ensuite, and a family shower room.

A spacious workshop is attached to the barn which could be converted to an annexe, subject to planning consent. The gardens include pathways, seating areas, a fish pond and a greenhouse. The pasture land lies to three sides of the property, which has a guide price of £374,950. Call James & Co on 01691 657077 to arrange a viewing.



Agents build on success with a vibrant new image

A familiar image in the region is about to change as agents McCartneys announce a fresh new look.

Debbie Anderson, property chairman, said: "The McCartneys brand is well recognised and respected across the Marches area. In the last 140 years the brand has slowly evolved and now McCartneys are proud to announce their updated 2014 identity with a new image including for sale boards and advertising artwork. "We have worked closely with Lester Dagge of Dagge Design to ensure our media presence remains fresh and current while reflecting our traditional roots." Visit www.mccartneys.co.uk to find out more.



Three-bed semi on a corner plot has been much improved

A much improved three-bedroom semi-detached family home in Oswestry is on the market with Your Move.

Number 32 Laburnum Drive is set on a corner plot in a popular residential area and benefits from gas central heating and double glazing. The downstairs accommodation comprises an entrance hall, spacious living room with flame effect gas fire, and dining kitchen with appliances. Upstairs are three bedrooms, all with built-in wardrobes, and a family bathroom including a P-shaped bath with shower over. There is a gated driveway and attractive gardens to the side and rear.

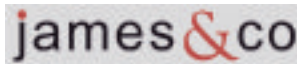
The agents have set a guide price of £129,950. Contact Your Move on 01691 654989 or visit www.your-move.co.uk to find out more.



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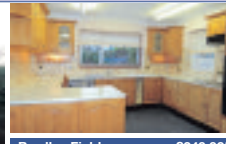
NEW - NO CHAIN

Poplar Close
St Martins £154,995

- Deceptively spacious 3 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, Conservatory
- Master Bedroom (en-suite), 2 further Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- To the rear the property has a private garden
- Large driveway providing off-road parking and single garage
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing. EPC Rating D



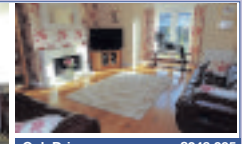
NEW - NO CHAIN

Bradley Fields
Oswestry £249,995

- Comfortably appointed & spacious Detached House in a prime location
- Living Rm, Conservatory, Dining Rm, Cloaks, Sitting Rm, Kitchen, Utility
- 4 Excellent Bedrooms, Family Bathroom and Separate Shower Room
- Enclosed gardens to rear together with driveway & double garage
- Gas fired central heating, double glazing. EPC Rating E
- The property is situated with a cul-de-sac location



NEW

Oak Drive
Oswestry £248,995

- Immaculately presented & spacious mature Detached Family House
- Set in a cul-de-sac position with this popular residential locality.
- Entrance Porch, Reception Hall, Cloakroom, Spacious Living Room
- Dining Rm, Kitchen, Playroom/Bedroom 4, Master Bedroom (en-suite)
- 2 further Double Bedrooms, Study/Box Room and Luxury Bathroom
- Ample off-road parking, carport and landscaped rear garden
- Gas C/H and uPVC double glazing (where stated) EPC Rating D



NEW - NO CHAIN

Roundwood Close
Oswestry £139,995

- Well maintained 2 Bedroom Detached Bungalow in a popular area
- Hallway, Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom.
- Ample off-road parking, detached garage and low maintenance gardens
- Gas central heating and uPVC double glazing throughout. EPC Rating D



NEW

St Martins Rd
Gobowen £40,000

- A commercial property extending to approx 350 sq. ft. (32 sq. m.)
- The property could be used for a host of future uses
- (subject to any necessary planning consents)
- Main Shop, Office, Kitchenette and Cloakroom.
- The property is situated with a cul-de-sac location
- Close to the main line railway station and shops



NEW - NO CHAIN

Weston
Nr Oswestry £159,995

- A spacious 2/3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Idyllic location, views over open countryside & picturesque mill pond
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Kitchen/Dining Room, Utility, Lounge
- Sun Room/Bedroom 3, 2 other double Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Ample parking, private gardens to rear & side
- Oil central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating F

27th March Property Auction

2.00pm

@ the Lion Quays
Hotel, Moreton
Oswestry

LOT 1
AUCTIONWorthenbury
Guide Price WREXHAM
Over £150,000

- Semi Detached Cottage.
- Scope for modernisation
- Sought after village location.
- Double garage.
- Established gardens and parking.
- EPC Rating G
- Contact Wrexham Office

LOT 2
AUCTIONElson Road
Guide Price ELLESMERE
Over £225,000

- Detached 3 bedroom property.
- Requires scheme of modernisation and improvement works
- Integral garage, off road parking
- Large gardens to front and rear.
- EPC Rating - Band E
- Contact Ellesmere Office

LOT 3
AUCTIONOverton
Guide Price WREXHAM
Over £150,000

- 5 Bedroom family home.
- In need of modernisation and improvement works.
- uPVC double glazing & Gas fired C/H.
- Popular village location.
- EPC Rating - D
- Contact Ellesmere Office

LOT 4
AUCTIONPant
Guide Price OSWESTRY
Over £270,000

- 4 Bedroom Split Level Detached
- Views across Shropshire Plain
- Lounge, Dining Room, Balcony
- Kitchen, Utility, Conservatory
- Master Bedroom (En-Suite)
- EPC Rating D
- Contact Oswestry Office

LOT 5
AUCTIONHope
Guide Price WREXHAM
Over £150,000

- Generous Grounds
- Detached Bungalow
- Popular Location
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- EPC Rating E
- Contact Wrexham Office

LOT 6
AUCTIONHightown
Guide Price WREXHAM
Over £60,000

- Three Bedroom Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Forecourt and rear garden
- Scope for modernisation and improvement
- EPC Rating F
- Contact Wrexham office

LOT 7
AUCTIONChurch St
Guide Price OSWESTRY
Over £150,000

- 3 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Adjoining Annex & Double Garage
- Large Plot Extending to around 0.52 acre
- Potential Development opportunity
- EPC Rating F
- Contact Oswestry Office

LOT 8
AUCTIONAberoe
Guide Price WREXHAM
Over £200,000

- Providing tremendous scope for extension and refurbishment into an exceptional and large family home
- Sought after rural surroundings
- Grounds extending to approx 0.96ac
- EPC Rating G
- Contact Wrexham office

LOT 9
AUCTIONRuabon
Guide Price WREXHAM
Over £40,000

- Mid terrace dwelling subject to occupation under a Regulated Tenancy
- Living Room & Kitchen to the ground floor with Three Bedrooms and Bathroom at first floor level.
- EPC Rating D
- Contact Wrexham Office

LOT 10
AUCTIONRuabon
Guide Price WREXHAM
Over £40,000

- End terrace dwelling subject to occupation under a Regulated Tenancy
- Living Room & Kitchen to the ground floor with Three Bedrooms and Bathroom at first floor level.
- EPC Rating D
- Contact Wrexham Office



The Auction
Catalogue can be
downloaded from

bowensonandwatson.co.uk/
online-catalogue



NEW PRICE

Barber Close
Oswestry £169,995

- Deceptively spacious 4/5 Bedroom, 3 Storey Townhouse
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, well fitted Kitchen/Dining Room
- Utility Room, Study/Bedroom 5, Lounge
- 2 Bedrooms & Bathroom with 2 further large Bedrooms (master en-suite)
- A paved patio area to the rear and a lawned garden to the side
- Single garage and driveway, Gas C/H & uPVC D/G. EPC Rating B



NO CHAIN

Cambrian Avenue
Whittington £145,000

- A most delightful spacious and extended Semi-Detached House
- Sitting Room, Snug, Kitchen, Landing, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom.
- Delightful gardens to the fore with ample parking for several cars
- Fully enclosed south facing rear garden and with views
- Gas fired central heating, Double Glazing, EPC Rating C

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NEW Dudleston Heath OakFields Farm
3 BED DET HOUSE
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DOUBLE GLAZING
EPC RATING E
OIRO £389,950



Candy Spring Cottage
3 BED DET COTTAGE
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2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING E
OIRO £369,950



NEW Park Hall South Lodge
4 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EXTENSIVE GARDENS
EPC RATING E
OIRO £329,950



NEW PRICE Oswestry 20 Hampton Road
4 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING E
OIRO £304,950



NEW Llanymynech Arddol
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
12 BAY STABLE BLOCK
APPROXIMATELY 3 ACRES
EPC RATING D
OIRO £294,950



NEW PRICE Oswestry 25 Grosvenor Road
4 BED DET HOUSE
DOUBLE GARAGE
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING D
OIRO £249,950



NEW Trefonen Arkwood
4 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
KITCHEN/ DINER
OFF ROAD PARKING
EPC RATING C
OIRO £219,950



Maesbury Marsh Oakdene
3 BED DET BUNGALOW
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING F
OIRO £214,950



NEW Llanymynech 4 Vyrnwy Crescent
2 BED DET BUNGALOW
CONSERVATORY
DOUBLE GLAZING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £214,950



NEW PRICE Oswestry 85 Cabin Lane
4 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING D
OIRO £212,950



Morda 16 Sweeney Drive
4 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING C
OIRO £199,950



Oswestry Cromer House
4/5 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
DECORATION REQUIRED
MOTIVATED SELLER
EPC RATING E
OIRO £199,950



Weston Rhyn 49 Long Croft
3/4 BED DET HOUSE
2/3 RECEPTION ROOMS
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING C
OIRO £189,995



Pant Spring Cottage
3 BED DET COTTAGE
FORMER POST OFFICE
PERIOD FEATURES
EPC RATING F
OIRO £174,950



Oswestry 17 Oaklands Drive
2 BED DET BUNGALOW
NO CHAIN
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING TBC
ASKING PRICE £169,950



Morda Oswestry 2 Sweeney Drive
3 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
EN SUITE MASTER BEDROOM
EPC RATING C
OIRO £154,950



NEW Oswestry 173 Cabin Lane
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING TBC
OIRO £149,950



NEW Oswestry 48 School Lane
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
LIVING ROOM/ DINER
EPC RATING D
OIRO £147,950



Oswestry 7 Plas Newydd Close
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
CONSERVATORY
GARAGE
EPC RATING C
OIRO £149,950



Whittington 49 Penybryn Avenue
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
MODERN KITCHEN
EPC RATING C
OIRO £137,500



Oswestry 6 Wats Drive
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING E
OIRO £122,950



NEW Oswestry 10 College Road
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
OFF ROAD PARKING
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING TBC
OIRO £117,950



NEW Oswestry 40 Ascot Road
2 BED TERRACE HOUSE
NO CHAIN
OFF ROAD PARKING
EPC RATING B
ASKING PRICE £117,500



NEW PRICE Oswestry 3 Regent Court
2 BED RETIREMENT PROPERTY
GROUND FLOOR
NO CHAIN
EPC RATING D
OFFERS OVER £112,950



Llanymynech 3 Ashfield Terrace
2 BED MID TERRACE HOUSE
NO CHAIN
IN NEED OF MODERNISING
EPC RATING F
OFFERS OVER £99,995



Nr Gobowen 3 Daywell Cottages
2 BED END TERRACE HOUSE
NO CHAIN
PVC D/G
EPC RATING F
OFFERS OVER £95,000



Oswestry 42 Upper Brook Street
1 BED TERRACE HOUSE
NO CHAIN
PVC DOUBLE GLAZING
EPC RATING E
OIRO £89,950



Oswestry 43 Abraham Court
1 BED APARTMENT
RETIREMENT PROPERTY
EPC RATING B
COMMUNAL GARDEN/LIVING ROOM
OIRO £89,950



Oswestry 39 Castle Street
2 BED MID TERRACE HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING E
OFFERS OVER £89,950



Oswestry 3 Abraham Court
1 BED GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT
RETIREMENT PROPERTY
EPC RATING C
COMMUNAL GARDEN
OIRO £84,950



Oswestry 9 Upper Lord Street
2 BED END TERRACE HOUSE
NO CHAIN
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £84,950

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3 SYCAMORE CLOSE, ST MARTINS. 3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE £500 PCM
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Halls

NEW

NO CHAIN

A rare opportunity to purchase an imposing South Facing 1920's 'Arts and Craft' style property with superb views to the Hills. Each room has character and individuality but offers the opportunity for a purchaser to impose their own style and taste.

- Three Reception Rooms
- Kitchen Breakfast Room
- Bedroom, Dressing Room
- Bedroom Two with Ensuite
- Two Further Bedrooms
- Current EPC Rating F

OC3872

Cliffe Point, Pant
Price: £299,950

Contact Oswestry

NEW

NO CHAIN

An immaculate four bedroom detached property situated in a village location within a short walk from a Nature Reserve and excellent village amenities. Built in 2000 this property offers spacious accommodation with individual design characteristics.

- WC, Kitchen Dining Room
- Utility Room, Lounge
- Master Bedroom Suite
- Three Further Bedrooms
- Bathroom with roll top bath,
- Parking, Garage, Gardens
- Current EPC Rating C

OC3874

Colliery Road, St Martins
Price: £249,950

Contact Oswestry

NEW

NO CHAIN

A two bedroom property situated in the popular village location of West Felton with good commuter links to both Shrewsbury and Oswestry. An ideal investment purchase or first time buy.

- Lounge, Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom, Gardens
- Two Parking Spaces
- Double Glazing
- Current EPC Rating D

OC3870

Applewood Heights, West Felton
Price: £110,000

Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN

This three bedroom bungalow is situated in a most sought after residential area near to Oswestry Town centre. This property is warmed by gas fired central heating and benefits from UPVC double glazing.

- Lounge, Kitchen Dining Room
- Three Bedrooms
- Shower Room, Parking
- Gardens to Front, Side, Rear
- Current EPC Rating D

OC3851

Hampton Close, Oswestry
Price: £249,950

Contact Oswestry

NEW

NO CHAIN

This spacious three bedroom bungalow is situated in a most sought after cul des sac location with landscaped East facing rear garden. This property offers accommodation which is warmed by gas fired central heating and benefits from UPVC double glazing.

- Reception Hall, Cloakroom,
- Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen,
- Three Bedrooms, Bathroom,
- Parking, Gardens
- Summerhouse, Garden Shed
- Current EPC Rating D

OC3868

Llanforda Mead, Oswestry
Price: £249,950

Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN

This spacious detached bungalow benefits from a view over the cul de sac and over Oswestry town, with private rear gardens and three bedrooms. This property is available for sale with no chain.

- Bed En-Suite & Dressing Room
- Gas CH & UPVC DG
- In Need Of Slight Modernisation
- Garden To Front & Rear
- Detached Garage & Parking
- Current EPC Rating D

OC3847

Hampton Fields, Oswestry
Price: £249,950

Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN

A rare opportunity to purchase a three bedroom detached house with parking and garden located near to Oswestry Town Centre. This property benefits from UPVC double glazing and is available for sale with NO CHAIN.

- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom, Parking
- Gardens to Front & Rear
- Short Walk to Town
- Current EPC Rating F

OC3867

Chapel Street, Oswestry
Price: £135,000

Contact Oswestry

Located centrally within this most popular village opposite the Church with lovely countryside walks on the door step yet within commutable distance to the local towns.

- Four Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Countryside Walks
- Oil Central Heating
- Character Features
- Current EPC Rating F

OC3694

Peach Tree House, Monfa, Llansilin
Price: £159,999

Contact Oswestry

NEW

An immaculate three bedroom semi detached barn conversion situated in a sleepy backwater position within the village of West Felton. This barn conversion fuses newly created contemporary interiors with traditional features including exposed roof trusses and circular window.

- Two Reception Rooms
- Contemporary Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- UPVC double glazing
- Oil Fired Central Heating

Honeyput house, West Felton
Price: £274,950

Contact Oswestry

A detached character cottage situated in an elevated semi rural location with superb views across England and Wales. Dating back to 1865 this extended stone built cottage offers a Living Room with feature fireplace, Kitchen with views over the front and side gardens, Utility with space for appliance's, Four Piece Bathroom Suite, Two Double Bedrooms, Gardens, Parking, Detached Garage. EPC Rating E.

OC3864

Garth, Nr Llangollen
Price: £167,500

Contact Oswestry

This handsome property stands elegant in its own 3½ acres of flat pasture land with stunning views to the hills. The property is believed to be over 200 years old and offers three double bedrooms, playroom, a snug/fourth bedroom, living room, sitting room, kitchen, dining room, ample parking and turning space with gardens laid. There potential stabling and an attached barn which could provide an annex (subject to the usual planning consents).

OC3813

Tynwydd, Llanfechain
Price: £499,950

Contact Oswestry

A charming, distinctive and unique detached cottage offering immaculately presented accommodation benefiting from panoramic views of the Tanat Valley and surrounding countryside.

- Two/Three Bedrooms
- Master & En-Suite
- Workshop, Car Port, Parking
- Unspoilt Picturesque Location
- Current EPC Rating F

Castell Cottage, Llanrhaeadr
Price: Offers in Region of £220,000

Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN

Court View has been sympathetically renovated to an exceptional standard, taking into consideration and making the most of the commanding views and retaining many original features of an original and circa 1839 built barn.

- Drawing Room, Reading Room,
- Study, Dining Room, Lounge,
- Kitchen, Master Suite,
- Three further Bedrooms,
- Large Garage and Annex
- Well Maintained Gardens
- Current EPC Rating G

OC3863

Deytheur, Llansatffraid
Price: £465,000

Contact Oswestry

An opportunity to purchase a stone/brick built COTTAGE with a DETACHED ANNEXE. This property is well worthy of viewing to appreciate the character and charm throughout, gardens and annexe.

- Three Beds (Master & En-Suite)
- Two Reception Rooms
- Garage & Parking
- Annexe With Open Plan Living
- Semi Rural Location
- Current EPC Rating F

OC3517

Smithy House, Penybont
Price: £239,950

Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN

This detached family home is situated in an enchanting position nestled in the Cambrian Woods, down a quiet track providing seclusion but not isolation

- Five Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Situated In Just Over 7 Acres
- Double Garage & Parking
- Detached Workshop / Studio
- Current EPC Rating D

OC3835

Quarry Road, Glyn Ceiriog
Price: £399,950

Contact Oswestry

Dating back to the 1700's this detached South Facing cottage benefits from lovely views and is situated on a quiet country lane a few miles from Llanrhaeadr.

- Three Bedroom
- Oil CH & Solar Panels
- Double Glazing
- Cottage Gardens
- Babbling Brook
- Viewing Advised
- Current EPC Rating E

OC3680

Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant
Price: £285,000

Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN

This three storey THREE bedroom end of terrace town house is situated within a short walk from Oswestry Town Centre offering immaculate accommodation fitted to a high specification including good quality 'Quick Step' laminate flooring throughout the ground floor.

- R'Hall, WC, Lounge, Kitchen
- Bedroom Two, Family Bathroom
- Bedroom Three, Master Suite
- Enclosed Rear Garden, Parking
- Ideal Investment
- Current EPC Rating C

OC3866

Cambrian Mews, Oswestry
Price: £147,500

Contact Oswestry

A delightful barn conversion and family home which has kept the integrity of the original building with original features.

- Four Bedrooms
- Ensuite & Dressing Room
- Family Dining Kitchen
- Two Reception Rooms
- Approx 2 Acres Of Land
- Detached Barn & Parking
- Current EPC Rating C

OC3730

Penyllan Barn, Coed Y Go
Price: £435,000

Contact Oswestry

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Kidderminster 01562 820880

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- Front fog lights
- Electric front windows
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- USB connection
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- ESP & traction control
- 16" 5 spoke alloys

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ONLY £266*
DEPOSIT

ONLY £266
PER MONTH

PLUS WE PAY £1950
DEPOSIT ALLOWANCE*

Our Price £16318
Save £3777

- 1.0 125PS Manual
- Radio/CD
- AUX & USB Connectivity
- Air conditioning
- Cruise control
- Front fog lights

MODEL	STOCK	LIST PRICE	FROM	SAVE	DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION
Ka Studio Connect with FREE INSURANCE**	5 only	£9295	£7995	£1300	£250
Ka Zetec	9 only	£10545	£9495	£1050	£750
Ka Edge 1.2 3dr	9 only	£9795	£8590	£1205	£750
Fiesta Zetec 1.25 3dr with FREE FORD SYNC	7 only	£12895	£11260	£1635	£500
Fiesta Zetec 1.25 5dr with FREE FORD SYNC	5 only	£13495	£11995	£1500	£500
Fiesta Zetec 1.0 EcoBoost 100PS 3dr with FREE FORD SYNC	5 only	£13895	£12395	£1500	£500
Fiesta Zetec 1.0 80PS S/S 5dr with FREE FORD SYNC	4 only	£13995	£12445	£1550	£500
Fiesta Zetec 1.0 100PS 5dr with FREE FORD SYNC	14 only	£14495	£13130	£1365	£500

MODEL	STOCK	LIST PRICE	FROM	SAVE	DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION
Fiesta ST2 White or Race Red with FREE STYLE PACK	2 only	£17995	Ready for immediate delivery		
Focus Zetec 100PS 5dr with FREE APPEARANCE PACK	9 only	£17595	£15490	£2105	£1950
Focus Zetec Nav 1.0 EcoBoost 100PS with FREE APPEARANCE PACK	4 only	£18345	£16750	£1595	£1950
Focus Zetec Nav 1.0 125PS 5dr with FREE APPEARANCE PACK	4 only	£18845	£16995	£1850	£1950
Focus Zetec Nav 1.6 TDCi 115PS 5dr with FREE APPEARANCE PACK	4 only	£19445	£17785	£1660	£1950
Focus Titanium 1.0 125PS 5dr	5 only	£19295	£16320	£2975	£1950
B-MAX Zetec 1.4 with FREE FORD SYNC	8 only	£15595	£12995	£2600	£750
B-MAX Zetec 100PS with FREE FORD SYNC	5 only	£16195	£13495	£2700	£750
B-MAX Zetec 1.5 TDCi 75PS with FREE FORD SYNC	6 only	£16995	£14295	£2700	£750

10 Ford Kuga available for immediate delivery - various specifications - call us for full details

REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE: NEW FORD FOCUS STUDIO 1.6 85PS MANUAL 5DR*

36 monthly payments	Cash price	Customer deposit	Deposit allowance	Amount of credit	Total charge for credit	Total amount payable	GMFV (optional final payment)	Mileage per annum	Excess mileage charge (pence per mile)	Term	Borrowing rate (fixed)	7.2% APR Representative
£196.12	£12,995.00	£197.00	£1,950.00	£10,848.00	£1,760.32*	£14,775.32	£5,548.00	6,000	6.0	37 months	5.4%	

*inc. £10 Finance facility fee & £10 purchase fee

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www.furrows.co.uk

Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) Highest: FORD Focus 2.0 EcoBoost (200PS) 5 Door, M16 urban 28.5 (9.9), extra urban 58.4 (5.6), combined 39.2 (7.2). Official CO₂ emissions 165g/km. Lowest: FORD Focus 1.6 Duratec TDCi 80g Stop-Start (105PS) 5 Door (+DPP), M16 urban 72.4 (3.9), extra urban 91.1 (3.1), combined 83.1 (3.4). Official CO₂ emissions 88g/km. *Finance subject to status. Guarantees and rebates may be required. Freeport Ford Credit Facility fee (where applicable) is payable with first payment. Deposit allowance only available when financed with Ford credit. Purchase fee (where applicable) is payable with GMFV if you wish to own the vehicle at the end of the agreement. Terms and conditions apply, please ask for full details. **First insurance terms & conditions: First year insurance offer only available to new Studio Connect through Ford lease, subject to normal underwriting and eligibility criteria. Available to drivers over 21 who have held a valid full UK licence for one year. Other terms and conditions apply. Not available in conjunction with any other insurance offer. Vehicles shown for illustration purposes only. This supersedes all previously advertised manufacturer's promotions. Information correct at time of publication CBE.

Drivetime

Furrows serves the county

By David Banner

With three dealerships and four fast-rising franchises, Furrows Group is one of the largest privately-owned, family-run automotive retailers in Shropshire, serving motorists throughout the county and surrounding areas since 1918.

This thriving company holds the franchises for Ford, Mazda, Kia and Skoda, all strongly performing manufacturers, with rising sales and excellent model ranges.

In addition to new cars, Furrows Group offers a wide selection of competitively-priced quality used cars which range from small city cars through to spacious and adaptable people carriers.

Dedicated to providing customers with best value and best service, Furrows Group has received a number of plaudits and awards for customer care, including having been regularly honoured by Ford, the nation's biggest and most popular new car brand, receiving the Ford Chairman's Award for Customer Care on no fewer than 17 occasions.

Furrows Group Mazda

With sales having risen by 19 per cent in 2013 over 2012 levels, Mazda is a manufacturer riding the crest of a wave. Sleek and stylish new models such as the CX-5 compact crossover, the third generation Mazda6 and the stunning all-new Mazda3 have been successful in drawing more people to the Mazda brand, with many purchasing Mazda vehicles for the first time.

The All-New Mazda3 was officially launched in the UK in January. It's hard to argue this latest generation model is anything other than very sharp looking. There's the same family



face sported by the Mazda6 and the CX-5, with a longer bonnet than before to lend the car a more dynamic look.

It also gets four efficient engine options, three petrol and one diesel, all of which are designed around Mazda's SkyActiv technology which aims to improve efficiency. New Mazda3 boasts

stunning new technological features with mpg figures from 55.4mpg (combined) for the 120PS 2.0 petrol engine.

The Furrows Group Shrewsbury dealership holds the Mazda franchise for the whole of Shropshire, offering new and approved used Mazda vehicles, together with full aftersales care

for car buyers and Mazda servicing for all Mazda owners. Full Mazda servicing and repair facilities are also available across the county and beyond from the Furrows Group dealership in Telford.

Furrows Mazda sales manager, Keith Pyatt, says: "Mazda6, Mazda3 and Mazda CX-5 – these class-leading award winners feature Mazda's highly impressive SKYACTIVE Technology which offers exceptionally good fuel economy and ultra-clean CO2 emissions.

"Business fleet operators can therefore take advantage of reduced road tax and lower fuel bills while company car drivers are happy to be paying lower BIK rates."

Why not check out the impressive Mazda range at Furrows of Shrewsbury, The Shrewsbury Garage, Benbow Business Park, Shrewsbury SY1 3EQ. Tel: Call 01743 454444 for further information.

Furrows Group Ford
Furrows Group represents Ford at its three dealerships in Shropshire. It has long been recognised as Britain's biggest-selling motor brand with a huge and enthusiastic following and a range of models that covers every sector of the market.

Ford's award-winning stylish model range includes many of Britain's most popular vehicles, cars such as KA, Fiesta, B-Max, Focus, C-Max, Mondeo, S-Max and Galaxy, not to mention the all-new Kuga crossover. All these Ford cars not only top the sales charts but lead the way in all their respective classes.

The competitively-priced Ford B-Max compact MPV has also been a resounding success story for Ford. Its sliding doors make the car's interior very accessible. There's the amazing new Ford Fiesta 1.0-litre Ecoboost which delivers exceptional fuel economy, ultra-low CO2 emissions and strong performance. The Focus is also available with this hugely impressive powerplant, which won the prestigious title International Engine of the Year in both 2012 and 2013, making it the only engine ever to win the title two years in a row.

Dave Farthing group sales manager at Furrows group says: "Due to our amazing sales with the Ford brand, Ford has given us some extra dealer power so that we can bring spectacular offers right across the range. We have 100 new Fords to sell in 100 hours during our Compound Clearance, which means that it's the best possible time to gain the best Ford deals. You'll find Ford at all our Furrows Group locations."



Furrows Group Kia

Think of Kia, the fastest-growing car brand in the UK, and style, quality, variety and value are four words that spring instantly to mind.

Announced as Best Car Manufacturer by Which? magazine in 2012, Kia makes a range of models offering an intoxicating mix of style and cutting-edge design. This manufacturer poached world-renowned car designer Peter Schreyer from Audi and as a result every new model released enhances Kia's reputation for building stylish cars.

The sleek 2014 model-year Kia Sportage has created massive interest amongst owners of the previous generation model and has brought conquest sales from other makes of car.

Several models are produced specifically within an efficient ultra-modern plant in Slovakia for the European market. What's more, many Kia models are so clean that they're now congestion charge free and attract no road tax.

You'll find the whole Kia range at Furrows Group Kia at Shrewsbury and Telford, with full Kia aftersales facilities in Oswestry.

New Kias are covered by an industry-leading seven-year manufacturer warranty.

Furrows Group Skoda

Skoda offers a magnificent range of cars, with all being built to the high standards set by parent group Volkswagen. In fact, Skoda tops the all-important JD Power Customer Satisfaction Surveys for reliability, with the vast majority of Skoda owners recommending their cars and the brand to friends and family members.

It's a brand known for delivering low emissions, outstanding fuel economy and strong performance. Value-for-money pricing together with unrivalled reliability has also helped Skoda to achieve record sales success.

Its range is packed with all-new models all featuring Volkswagen technology. Its latest star cars include the incredibly economical Citigo, Roomster, the roomy Octavia, the stylish Rapid family hatch and the impressive new generation Yeti crossover. Sitting at the very top of the Skoda range is the prestigious, aptly-named Superb luxury saloon and estate. All can be found at Furrows Group's Skoda retail centre on Whittington Road, Oswestry.

Furrows Group Motability
Representing four of the UK's fast-growing motor franchises, Furrows Group is the leader in Motability throughout Shropshire. With over 30 years experience of the scheme, and plenty of friendly, fully-accredited specialists on hand, the company is in an excellent position to provide customers with a brand new car and stress-free motoring through the Motability programme.

With Ford, Kia, Mazda and Skoda, few dealerships can match Furrows Group when it comes to choice of models. With Motability everything is taken care of so you can enjoy the freedom to drive.



Worry-free means everything is included for peace of mind

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Harlescott Lane
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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) Highest: FORD New Kuga 2.0 Duratorq TDCI (163PS) (+DPF), A6-AWD: urban 38.2 (7.4), extra urban 51.4 (5.5), combined 45.6 (6.2). Official CO₂ emissions 162g/km. Lowest: FORD Focus 1.0 EcoBoost Stop-Start (100PS) 5 Door, MS: urban 48.7 (5.8), extra urban 68.9 (4.1), combined 60.1 (4.7). Official CO₂ emissions 109g/km.

*Please consult dealer for full terms and conditions of Motability offers.

Greenhous site is dedicated to electric and hybrid vehicles

The cost of running a car can have a major impact on our spending. If it isn't forking out for pricey insurance to get us on the road, then it's the renewal of road tax waiting around the corner. That isn't even touching on the amount of money we spend a year on fuel alone.

The popularity of electric vehicles in the UK is growing and what was once a rare sight on the roads is now well on its way to becoming the future of mainstream motoring.

People are turning to electric and hybrid vehicles, not just for environ-

mental implications, but to lower those fuel costs once and for all.

Many manufacturers are taking the development of electric cars far more seriously than ever before, resulting in real competition to rival the fossil fuel car most of us currently drive.

After the takeover of six new brands in the summer, Greenhous stocks more electric vehicles than any other dealer in the county. Last week, the Shropshire and West Midlands-based motor group launched one of the first dealer sites dedicated solely to electric and hybrid vehicles.

James Wilkes, head of e-commerce at Greenhous, said "Electric vehicles were once well out of reach for the average consumer but with the advance-

ment of technology, they are slowly becoming far more accessible.

"Prices are decreasing, ranges are increasing and more charge points are cropping up around the country. This makes them not only more affordable, but also able to cope with longer distance.

"With 14 electric and hybrid offerings, we have continued to stay up to date with the latest technological developments in the market and we don't plan on slowing down anytime soon. We know that the future of motoring is moving in an electric direction which is why we have dedicated a site to just that."

Check out the electric site at www.greenhoushybridelectric.co.uk



Scheme offers perfect solution

Continuing its support of local businesses, Greenhous Vauxhall has handed over two new vans to Truck and Trailer Services, based in Horton Wood, Telford.

The largest Vauxhall dealer in the county supplied two Movanos to the company on the Vauxhall Small Fleet Solutions scheme.

Ben Esp, commercial specialist, said: "We have been working with Truck and Trailer Services for a number of months now and handed over the first Movano back in September, with the second handover taking place last month. Both vans were '63 plate and chosen specifically for their suitability and functionality."

The Small Fleet Solutions scheme is aimed at businesses which operate with less than 25 vehicles, whether this is cars, vans or a mixture of both.

The unique and integrated package is designed to support companies running small fleets with one of the widest choices of award-winning eco-friendly cars and commercial vehicles.

Truck and Trailer Services is a family-owned-and-operated business which understands there is a need for a mobile repair service in the local area.

Being situated near to both the M54 and M6, Truck and Trailer Services is a reliable roadside service agent, making sure all customers receive the best quality work for an honest and fair price.

"At Greenhous, we believe it is important to fully understand the needs of a customer before we handover any vehicles. I worked with Truck and Trailer Services to find out what vehicle best suited their requirements."

"Because of the nature of their mobile repair service and needing to be

able to reach customers on the road regularly to make repairs, the Movano was the obvious choice. It is ideal as a fitter's van due to its large payload of 1,600kg along with its high fuel efficiency," said Ben Sam Baker, director at Truck and Trailer Services and pictured above with Ben Esp, said "We like working with Greenhous because we know we will receive a great product, specialist care from experts and the guarantee of a first class aftersales service."

"The Small Vehicle Solutions scheme was perfect for us as we only have a small number of fleet vehicles which need replacing at one time."

"It gave us access to the best deals, which are normally offered to businesses with much larger fleets. This meant we were able to get a fantastic package on the two vans and it is something we will continue to use in the future."



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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Mokka Exclusiv 1.6 16v (115PS) VVT Start/Stop FWD: Urban: 33.6 (8.4), Extra-urban: 52.3 (5.4), Combined: 43.5 (6.5). CO₂ emissions 153g/km.*

Personal contract hire offer on Mokka Exclusiv 1.6 in Orange Rock on orders received between 18 February 2014 and 1 April 2014, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £2485, then 36 monthly rentals of £199. Excess annual miles over 10,000 charged at 9.23 ppm. Excess charges also apply if you breach manufacturer servicing or maintenance guidelines or if the car exceeds BVRLA Fair Wear & Tear guidelines for its age/mileage when it is returned to Vauxhall Leasing. Package includes Road Fund Licence and Vauxhall Assistance. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Prices and details are subject to change without notice. For full specification and T&Cs contact your local Retailer: ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Vauxhall Leasing, Oakwood Park, Lodge Causeway, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 3JA. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.



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To find out more or to arrange a demonstrator¹, visit www.rybrookshrewsburybmw.co.uk

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Official Fuel Economy Figures for the BMW Business Models range: Urban 40.4-64.2mpg (7.0-4.4l/100km). Extra Urban 64.2-80.1mpg (4.4-3.4l/100km). Combined 53.3mpg-74.3mpg (5.3-3.8l/100km). CO2 Emissions 99-124g/km.

¹Demonstrator subject to applicant status and availability. BMW EfficientDynamics reduces BMW emissions without compromising performance developments and is standard across the model range.

For more information or to arrange a test drive¹, call us on 01743 467 467 or visit www.rybrookshrewsburybmw.co.uk

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Official Fuel Economy Figures for the BMW 420d M Sport Coupé: Urban 48.7mpg (5.8l/100km). Extra Urban 68.9mpg (4.1l/100km). Combined 60.1mpg (4.7l/100km). CO2 Emissions 127g/km. Figures may vary depending on driving style and conditions.

***Offer available to business users only.** ¹Plus deposit. Offers available to business users only. Figures exclude VAT. Based on a 36 month, 30,000 mile Contact Hire agreement for a BMW 420d M Sport Coupé with a deposit of £2,094 plus VAT, and an excess mileage charge of 13.25 pence per mile plus VAT. Subject to status and in the UK only (excl. the Channel Islands). Vehicle condition charges may apply at the end of your agreement. Individuals must be 18 or over. A guarantee may be required. The amount of VAT you can reclaim depends on your business VAT status. Rentals may change if VAT rate changes during agreement. Hire provided by BMW Group Corporate Finance. BMW Group Corporate Finance is a trading style of Alphabet (GB) Limited, Europa House, Bartley Way, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 9UF. Offer expires 31 March 2014.

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BMW 316d Sport Saloon



Monthly payment	Term of agreement	Annual mileage	Customer deposit	Dealer deposit contribution	BMW UK deposit contribution payment	Total deposit	On the road cash price*	Amount of credit
£299.00	48 months	8,000 miles	£2,499.00	£4,080.66	£0.00	£6,579.66	£27,465.00	£20,885.34
Rate of interest (fixed)	Credit arrangement fee*	Credit completion fee	Option to purchase fee**	Optional final payment	Total amount payable	APR	Excess mileage charge (per mile)	
4.90% APR	£0.00	£0.00	£10.00	£9,774.00	£30,416.66	4.9% APR	5.40 pence	

Official Fuel economy figures for the BMW 3 Series Saloon range: Extra Urban 43.5 – 78.5mpg (6.5 – 3.6 l/100km). Urban 22.4 – 56.5 mpg (12.6 - 5.0 l/100km)Combined 32.5 – 68.9 mpg (8.7 - 4.1 l/100km) CO2 emissions 202 - 109 g/km.

Finance examples are based on BMW Select Agreements for the model(s) selected above. *On the road cash prices are based on manufacturers recommended retail price and include 3 year BMW Dealer warranty, BMW Emergency Service, 12 months road fund license, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. **Option to purchase fee and optional final payment payable at the end of the agreement if you decide to purchase the vehicle. Excess mileage charges and vehicle condition charges may be payable if you return the vehicle. Retail customers only. All finance is subject to status and available to over 18's only (excluding the Channel Islands and Isle of Man). Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Advertised finance is provided by BMW Financial Services, Europa House, Bartley Way, Hook Hampshire RG27 9UF. We commonly but not exclusively introduce customers to BMW Financial Services. This introduction does not amount to independent financial advice. Offer(s) available on selected models ordered between 01 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 and registered by 30 June 2014, subject to availability. Prices are correct at time of going online (January 2014) and are subject to change without notice.

BMW 520d M Sport Saloon



Monthly payment	Term of agreement	Annual mileage	Customer deposit	Dealer deposit contribution	BMW UK deposit contribution payment	Total deposit	On the road cash price*	Amount of credit
£369.00	48 months	8,000 miles	£5,000.00	£3,672.60	£1,250.00	£9,922.60	£36,793.80	£26,871.20
Rate of interest (fixed)	Credit arrangement fee*	Credit completion fee	Option to purchase fee**	Optional final payment	Total amount payable	APR	Excess mileage charge (per mile)	
4.90% APR	£0.00	£0.00	£10.00	£13,387.50	£40,663.10	4.9% APR	9.00 pence	

Official fuel economy figures for the BMW 520d M Sport Saloon: Extra Urban: 65.7mpg (4.3l/100km). Urban: 47.9mpg (5.9l/100km). Combined: 57.6mpg (4.9l/100km). CO2 emissions 129g/km.

Finance examples are based on BMW Select Agreements for the model(s) selected above. *On the road cash prices are based on manufacturers recommended retail price and include 3 year BMW Dealer warranty, BMW Emergency Service, 12 months road fund license, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. **Option to purchase fee and optional final payment payable at the end of the agreement if you decide to purchase the vehicle. Excess mileage charges and vehicle condition charges may be payable if you return the vehicle. Retail customers only. All finance is subject to status and available to over 18's only (excluding the Channel Islands and Isle of Man). Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Advertised finance is provided by BMW Financial Services, Europa House, Bartley Way, Hook Hampshire RG27 9UF. We commonly but not exclusively introduce customers to BMW Financial Services. This introduction does not amount to independent financial advice. Offer(s) available on selected models ordered between 01 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 and registered by 30 June 2014, subject to availability. Prices are correct at time of going online (January 2014) and are subject to change without notice.

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Convertible is real deal

The BMW 4 Series Convertible is a more aggressive and overtly sporting model than the old 3 Series drop-top ever purported to be.

Yes, you could buy convertible versions of the fire-breathing M3, but to do so was merely to pronounce that you'd missed the point of an M3 quite sorely. Things may well prove very different when dealing with a 4 Series. It's got a bit more about it.

The 4 Series Convertible is one of the few folding hard-top cars which manages to look good whether the roof is up or down.

The roof itself helps here. By choosing a three-piece roof over a two-piece item, BMW has achieved a shorter stack length when folded, which in turn avoids that distended rear end which so many folding hard-top convertibles exhibit.

There's an inherent rightness about the basic proportioning too. The overall length of 4,638mm has been extended by 26mm; the wheelbase has grown by 50mm and, together with the wider front track, this gives the car a low and wide stance on the road. The shorter overhangs, long bonnet and set-back passenger compartment give the car an elegant profile.

The roof can be lowered in just 20 seconds when the vehicle is travelling at speeds of up to 8mph. Improvements in soundproofing reduce wind noise by up to 2dB. An electro-hydraulic

loading assistance system pivots and positions the folded hard top to ensure maximum utilisation of the 220 litres of storage space.

When the top is up, the boot has a volume of 370-litres, 20 litres more than in the previous 3 Series Convertible. With the optional through-loading system, a flat and level storage area can be utilised when the backrest of the rear bench seat is folded down.

The entry-level version gets leather heated seats, xenon headlamps, LED rear lights, a parking radar, as well as climate control. Satellite navigation is standard on most versions, but the adaptive dampers are a box you might want to tick on the options list as well as the sport steering.

Modest

Whilst it may well be incredibly annoying for BMW's rivals, the company's ability to produce engines which generate big horsepower but modest emissions and fuel consumption has proved a huge hit with UK buyers.

The 4 Series Convertible continues this run of form. Take the 428i drop-top as an example. This is a car which gets to 62mph in just 6.4 seconds yet will return 41.5mpg and emit just 159g/km of carbon dioxide. Even the racy 435i with a power output of over 300bhp will still manage 34.9mpg and emit just 190g/km in manual guise. Go for the automatic gearbox and the figures are even better at 37.7mpg and 176g/km respectively.

Despite these numbers, it's hard to look beyond the 420d, which is certainly brisk enough, recording an 8.2 second sprint to 62, yet will still see 55.4mpg and 133g/km. Expect strong residuals which will continue to give mainstream car manufacturers something to fret over. Insurance premiums are also said to have been driven down by better repairability and improved security.

The BMW 4 Series seems to be a carefully managed piece of product development.

This first version of the Convertible merely introduces the theme, teasing at what our assumptions might be. Make no mistake, this is no half measure.

Audi and Mercedes will look at this car and wonder how on earth they can come close to beating it, yet one suspects there's a lot more to come from BMW in the next few years on the 4 Series theme.

The only possible flaw in the plan is BMW becomes a victim of its own success, that buyers will exercise a certain contrarian nature and choose a rival that's objectively not quite so talented merely in order to buy something different.

In this sector, cars are as much about what they say about the owners and there are some buyers who are rather put off by the default choice.

As problems go, it's a nice one to have. BMW can congratulate themselves on a job well done.

Peugeot 308 is Car of the Year

The new Peugeot 308 has been crowned with the prestigious title of 2014 Car of the Year, awarded by a jury of 22 journalists representing 22 European countries.

Thirty new models from North American, Korean, European and Japanese manufacturers, on sale in Europe during 2013, were eligible for the 2014 Car of the Year crown.

The jury, reflecting the interests and tastes of 58 journalists from 22 Euro-

pean countries, delivered its verdict on the strong line-up of seven finalist models pre-selected in December – the new Peugeot 308 carried it off on the podium.

The new 308 is the fourth Peugeot model to be distinguished by the Car of the Year award; it comes after the 307 (2002), 405 (1988) and 504 (1969).

Produced in Sochaux, the brand's historic home in Eastern France, the new 308 was launched in Europe during the last four months of 2013 and in

the UK in January this year; production and sales in China, the biggest automobile market in the world, will start early in 2015.

Sales success has already been achieved, with more than 55,000 orders recorded since launch.

Maxime Picat, director general of Automobiles Peugeot said: "With the new Peugeot 308, we were convinced we had achieved a leap in concept, technology and quality and which would soon allow it a place on the podium for the category in Europe."



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MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions. To finance your [lease/purchase] we may introduce you to a limited number of lenders. #Passport Personal Lease: A guarantee may be required. Over 18's only. Written quotations available on request from Peugeot Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, RH1 1QA. Passport Personal Lease contract examples. 208 Access 1.0 VTI 68 3dr customer initial payment £149, Dealer initial payment contribution £250, Peugeot initial payment contribution £500, optional final payment £3,068, 46 monthly rentals payable. Annual mileage 6000 miles. Excess mileage charges may apply. If you choose to pay off the optional final rental at the end of contract, you can keep the car but will not own it – you will pay an annual rental equivalent to one of your monthly rentals. However, car ownership is possible with Passport – ask us for details. Offers apply to vehicles ordered by 31st March 2014. Calls may be recorded for training purposes.



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Audi A4 a winning formula

By Graham Breeze

There's little wonder that Audi has sold over five million cars in the A4 range since its 1995 launch.

The A4 may be older than a lot of other models in the German manufacturer's garage but constant updates to the range mean it still looks the business in every way.

You really have to drive the A4 to appreciate why the company has sold so many models in the range, because it doesn't have the dazzle normally associated with Audi.

But there's no doubt the A4 has played a big part in Audi becoming the UK's fourth best-seller, behind Ford, Vauxhall and Volkswagen.

Audi has grown by constantly adding to its product portfolio. At the turn of the cen-

tury there were just 17 models now there are close on 50 to choose from and that number will grow to 60 by 2015.

The A4 remains an excellent upmarket saloon which stands toe-to-toe with BMW and Mercedes as a leading premium car in either Saloon, Avant or 4X4 Allroad estate guise.

On test was the A4 Saloon 2.0TDI (150PS) Multitronic version with an on-the-road price of £27,790, though extras such as Bluetooth, metallic paint, adaptive headlights and a technology pack meant you would pay £34,330.

This model offers an effective blend of economy and performance with a top speed of 130mph and 0-62mph in 9.1 seconds, while still giving 58.9mpg on the combined cycle and a CO2 rating of 127g/km.

The A4 wins because it has a luxurious, almost silent interior and proved a great, if firm, ride on motorways despite the TDI's stiffer suspension.



Inside, it's easy for passengers to feel they are being chauffeured. There's a feeling you are off to a special occasion or event with occupants experiencing loads of space and sitting as comfortably as it gets.

Front seats are fully adjustable, as is the steering wheel, enabling a good driving position, while the dashboard is typically Audi with good-looking soft-touch plastics and the usual metal trim.

The boot gives 480 litres of storage, which is more than enough to suit most needs and passed the golf club test. There's a remote-opening boot lid and a ski hatch in the centre of the back seats.

No expense has been spared with safety

levels, so it's little surprise the A4 secured the full five stars in the Euro NCAP crash safety tests.

All models come with ISOFIX child seat anchor points in the back, anti-whiplash head restraints, blind spot and lane departure warning systems, electronic traction and stability control, and six airbags as standard equipment.

The good thing about being an Audi buyer is you know the car will hold its resale value and the A4 is no exception. There's a big demand out there for secondhand models.

The A4 is far from the most attractive model on offer from Audi but if you want a good blend of reliability, comfort and economical performance you won't go far wrong.

TESTED

Audi: A4 Saloon

Model: 2.0TDI Multitronic

Cost: From £27,790

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0-62mph: 9.1secs

CO2 emissions: 127g/km

Combined fuel: 58.9mpg

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Drivetime

Arthurs' new van centre

A second major development costing over £10,000 has been completed by award-winning Arthurs Vauxhall of Newtown.

Following a total refurbishment of its Pool Road showroom three years' ago, the Vauxhall dealership has now just opened a brand new dedicated van centre in what was formerly a well-known Little Chef restaurant.

The Little Chef, which is adjacent to its existing premises on Pool Road, has been completely converted into a van centre with showroom and display area to serve both Arthurs Newtown and Oswestry branches.

Arthurs Van Centre, as it has been called, is a big step forward for Arthurs in Newtown.

General sales manager Steve Hughes said: "I have a great passion for van sales and I have been keen to develop this part of the Arthurs business since I returned to the dealership just over three years' ago."



"We will be selling new and used Vauxhall vans as well as having other makes in stock. We are opening this new van centre on the back of our most successful year yet for van sales."

"There are many businesses and sole traders in Mid Wales and Shropshire which operate vans and we took a key decision to open a new van centre which would offer a high quality service as well as availability of new and used vans."

"In addition to providing a second-to-none service, we are also offering low-rate finance on vans which we see as a growing market. Confidence has started to rise again following a marked improvement in the economy overall."

Appointed as van and business-to-business sales consultant for the new Arthurs Van Centre is Antonio Corbisiero, 29, a former Swansea City professional footballer.

The central midfielder signed professional forms for Swansea City when he was 16 and made 12 appearances for the Swans before signing as a pro for Llanelli in the Welsh Premier League.

He played in European competitions seven years on the trot and is now player-coach of Aberystwyth, who are in the semi-finals of the Welsh Cup in a live S4C broadcast on April 5.

Ironically, their match against Holywell is at Newtown – less than two miles from Antonio's workplace.

On becoming a semi-professional with Llanelli he entered the teaching profession and prior to joining Arthurs taught PE at a private school for three to 18 year olds for five years.

Antonio said: "Arthurs has given me a massive opportunity and I am thrilled to be part of an award-winning dealership which has created this major expansion in the area."



'Arthurs Van Centre, as it has been called, is a big step forward for Arthurs in Newtown'

Steve added: "I am delighted Antonio has joined us. He has the ability, energy and enthusiasm to be successful as a van man."

"My message to prospective customers is 'if you want a van then we have a man who can deliver.'"

"Customers can contact us on 01686 625422 or email Antonio directly at antonio.corbisiero@arthurscars.co.uk"

Meanwhile, over in Ellesmere, Tesco supermarket is displaying the exciting new Vauxhall ADAM model outside its store for two months.

The deal is in a partnership with Arthurs of Oswestry.

Through the partnership Tesco employees are offered preferential terms to buy a new Vauxhall car from Arthurs.

David Goldthorpe, Arthurs of Oswestry sales manager, said: "We are delighted to have entered into this partnership and the initial response from displaying the car outside the Tesco store in Ellesmere has been very pleasing."

"As a consequence we are seeing a large increase in new car inquiries from people in the Ellesmere area. It is also pleasing we have also received many inquiries from Tesco employees who are now considering the purchase of a new Vauxhall model."

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03 VOLVO S80 Saloon, MUST BE SEEN, Beautiful	£2395
03 CITROEN C5 1.8 Blue, superb throughout	£1750
02 CITROEN PICASSO Blue	£1295
02 RENAULT CLIO 1.2 Red	£995
W BMW 530 SE Diesel. Leather, Auto	£2495
P RANGE ROVER 4.6 HSE AUTO Leather, excellent cond	£2695
T MINI COOPER Blue/Union Jack Roof	£2495

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57 VAUXHALL ASTRA TWINTOP CONVERTIBLE, Black, 51K	£3975
54 MGF Convertible Yellow	£1995
03 FORD STREET KA Blue Convertible	£1995
T MAZDA MX5 Black Convertible	£1995

COMMERCIALS

08 PEUGEOT PARTNER Diesel	£2995 +VAT
07 TRANSIT SWB Diesel	£4200 +VAT
54 CITROEN BERLINGO	£1450 +VAT

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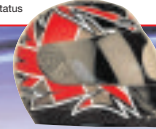
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Credit facility fee	£149.00	The credit and the charge for credit is repayable by 1 initial payment of	£318.34	Duration of the agreement	60 months
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13:13 VIVARO 2.0 CDTI
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Save £11,437.96



12:62 MOVANO L2H2 2.3CDTI
NEW £30,747.99

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13:13 COMBO L2H1 2300 1.6CDTI
NEW £21,059.98 inc vat

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12:12 MOVANO 9 SEAT COMBI
L2H2 FWD 3.5T 2.3CDTI
NEW £36,463.20 inc VAT

OUR PRICE £18,000 inc vat

Save £18,463.20



13:13 VW TRANSPORTER
T28 2.0TDi (102PS)
NEW £24,219 inc vat

OUR PRICE £15750+ VAT

SAVE £6000



12:62 MOVANO L4H2 2.3CDTI
NEW £37,191 inc VAT

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12:62	VAUXHALL COMBO 2000 L1H1 1.3CDTI (90PS) White, 11,950 Miles	£8,250 (INC VAT)
13:13	VAUXHALL COMBO 2300 L1H2 1.6CDTI (105PS) S/S 6-Speed, Silver, 13,200 Miles	£9,999+VAT
13:13	VAUXHALL COMBO 2300 L2H1 1.6CDTI S/S SPORTIVE silver 17,575	£11,999+VAT
13:13	VAUXHALL VIVARO 5-DR PANEL VAN LWB STANDARD ROOF 2.0T 2.0CDTI 115PS Euro 5, 11,000 Miles	£12,750+VAT
11:11	VAUXHALL VIVARO LWB 2.0CDTI 115PS SPORTIVE white 60,981 Miles	£9,400+VAT
11:61	VAUXHALL VIVARO LWB 2.0CDTI 115PS SPORTIVE white 67,678 Miles	£9,500+VAT
12:62	VAUXHALL VIVARO LWB 2.0CDTI 115PS SPORTIVE steel grey 23,400 Miles	£12,650+VAT
12:62	VAUXHALL VIVARO LWB 2.0CDTI 115PS SPORTIVE midnight black 16,495 Miles	£13,150+VAT
13:13	VAUXHALL MOVANO TIPPER L3H1 FWD 3.5T 2.3CDTI 16v 125PS Euro 5, 21,986 Miles	£17,250+VAT
12:62	VAUXHALL MOVANO 5-DR PANEL VAN L2H2 FWD 3.5T 2.3CDTI 16v (150PS) EURO 5 3,920 Miles	£16,350+VAT
12:62	VAUXHALL MOVANO 5-DR PANEL VAN L2H2 FWD 3.5T 2.3CDTI 16v (125PS) EURO 5 11,780 Miles	£14,250+VAT
12:62	VAUXHALL MOVANO 5-DR PANEL VAN L3H2 FWD 3.5T 2.3CDTI 16v (125PS) EURO 5 13,149 Miles	£14,650+VAT
12:12	VAUXHALL MOVANO 5-DR, 9 SEAT COMBI, L2H2 FWD 3.5T 2.3CDTI 16v (125PS) EURO 5 12,659 Miles	£18,000 (INC VAT)
09:09	VAUXHALL ASTRARVAN 1.3 CLUB diesel white 78,800 Miles	£5000+VAT
10:10	VW CRAFTER DROPSIDE 35 2.5TDI 88 FULL CAGE 41,250 MILES	£10,492+VAT
13:13	VW TRANSPORTER T28 SWB 2.0TDI (102PS) Treadline - Blue - 26,000 Miles	£15,750+VAT
12:12	VW CRAFTER CR35 LWB 2.0 TDI (109PS) High Roof, Candy White - 24,578 Miles	£15,750+VAT
11:11	RENAULT TRAFFIC L1 20DCI 115PS sat nav, rear parking sensors, white 62,515 Miles	£9250+VAT
10:10	RENAULT KANGOO ML19DCI glacier white, SLD, Parking sensors, bluetooth, 57,434 Miles	£5000+VAT
10:60	RENAULT KANGOO ML20DCI sat nav, SLD, white 44,729 Miles	£5750+VAT
10:10	PEUGEOT PARTNER LT 1.6HDI 90, SLD, Alpine white 62,123 Miles	£6000+VAT

For all van enquires please contact Antonio Corbisiero.
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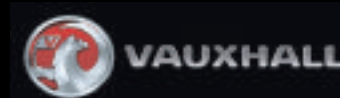
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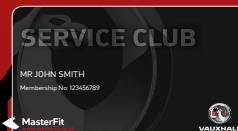
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3 DOOR, ALLOYS, SAT
NAV, PRIVACY GLASS, AIR
CON, POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS, IPOD
CONNECTION, INSURANCE
GROUP 1, TAX £20 PER
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CONDITION



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WARRANTY, LOW TAX, IPOD
CONNECTION, STILL UNDER
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6 SPEED, LOW INSURANCE,
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CON, POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
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CONNECTION, IMMACULATE
CONDITION



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AUTO, AIR CON, POWER
STEERING, ELECTRIC
WINDOWS, PARKING
SENSORS, ALLOYS, LOW
TAX, EXCELLENT MPG,
IMMACULATE CONDITION



Buy this car, and drive away today from only £39 per week*.
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MERCEDES A CLASS
1.5 A150 AVANTGARDE
3 DOOR, ALLOYS,
CD PLAYER, AIR CON,
POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
IMMACULATE CONDITION



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DIESEL, TAX £30 PER YEAR,
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AIR CON, POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
IMMACULATE CONDITION



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FORD MONDEO 1.8 TDCI
SPORT 125
DIESEL, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER,
AIR CON, POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS, CRUISE
CONTROL, BLUETOOTH,
SAT NAV, LOADS OF
EXTRAS, EXCELLENT MPG,
IMMACULATE CONDITION



Buy this car, and drive away today from only £36 per week*.
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CARS OF THE WEEK

NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 VISIA



5 DOOR, ALLOYS,
CD PLAYER, AIR CON,
POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

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VW GOLF 1.6 TDI MATCH



DIESEL, 5 DOOR, ALLOYS, CD
PLAYER, AIR CON, P/STEERING,
E/WINDOWS, BLUETOOTH,
IPOD CONNECTION,
LOW TAX, EXCELLENT MPG,
PARKING SENSORS,
UNDER VW WARRANTY,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £59 per week*.
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VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 CDTIE
ECOFLEX 165
DIESEL, AUTO, UPGRADE
ALLOYS, HALF LEATHER, A/C,
CD-IPOD, A/C, P/STEERING,
E/WINDOWS, CRUISE
CONTROL, BLUETOOTH,
UNDER VAUXHALL
WARRANTY, PARKING
SENSORS, EXTRAS



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NISSAN MICRA 1.2 VISIA
£30 TAX PER YEAR, 5
DOOR, CD PLAYER, AIR CON,
POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC
WINDOWS, COLOUR CODED,
IPOD CONNECTION, STILL
UNDER NISSAN WARRANTY,
LOW INSURANCE,
TAX, EXCELLENT MPG,
IMMACULATE CONDITION



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RENAULT MODUS 1.6
PRIVILEGE
AUTO, 5 DOOR, ONLY 27000
MILES, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER,
AIR CON, POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
IMMACULATE CONDITION



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FORD MONDEO 2.0 GHIA
AUTOMATIC
4 DOOR, AUTO, ALLOYS, CD
PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER
STEERING, ELECTRIC
WINDOWS, ONLY 48000
MILES, IMMACULATE
CONDITION



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SEAT LEON 1.6 TDI CR 105
SE COPA
DIESEL, AUTO, ALLOYS, LOW
TAX, CD, A/C, P/STEERING,
E/WINDOWS, R/PARK
SENSORS, DUAL CLIMATE
CONTROL, GREAT MPG,
LOW INSURANCE, UNDER
SEAT WARRANTY TILL 2015,
IMMACULATE CONDITION



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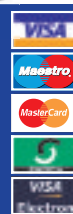
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FSH £9,999



2008 58 FORD GALAXY 1.8 TDCI
ZETEC Metallic Red, 77,000 miles,
Manual, FSH
£7,999



2010 10 BMW 118 des 6-Speed
Manual 5-door, Bright Red, FSH,
62,000 miles £10,499



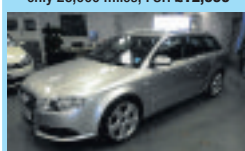
2007 57 TOYOTA RAV 4 2.0 XT3
5-door, 4x4 Manual, Metallic Blue,
75,000 miles, FSH £6,999



2004 04 NISSAN TERRANO 2.7 TDI
SE 4x4 7 SEATER Metallic Silver,
Manual, 86,000 miles £3,999



2008 08 AUDI A4 2.0 TDi SE Saloon
6 speed Manual, Metallic Grey,
only 26,000 miles, FSH £12,999



2007 56 AUDI A4 AVANT 2.0 TFSI S-LINE
QUATTRO Metallic Silver, 6 Speed Manual,
Leather, only 51,000 miles, FSH £9,999



2010 60 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5-door
Manual, Bright Blue Metallic, only
5,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH £8,999



2009 09 BMW 116d SE 5-door.
Manual, Light Blue Metallic, £30.00
a year Road Tax, 60,000 miles FSH
£8,799



2010 10 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 1.6 TDCI
5-door, Metallic Red, 35,000 miles,
£30 pa Road Tax £8,999



2009 59 FORD MONDEO 1.8 TDCI
Edge Hatchback,
Metallic Grey, 56,000 miles
£6,499



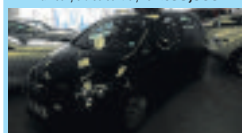
2008 08 LANDROVER FREELANDER 2 2.2d
XS Manual Metallic Red, 68,000 miles,
privacy glass, bluetooth, FSH £12,999



2009 59 CITROEN C4 VTR+ HDI
5-door, Red, 60,200 miles
£5,799



2013 13 VW TRANSPORTER CAMPER VAN Metallic
Dark Wood, 11,000 miles, Brand New Camper 4 Berth
Conversion done by Gee Wagen, Oswestry, top spec,
air con, cruise control, FSH £38,500



2010 60 VW GOLF TDi PLUS SE
5-door, Manual, Metallic Black, 1
Owner, 34,000 miles, FSH £10,499



2010 59 KIA SPORTAGE XS CRDI 4X4
Manual, Metallic Blue, 1 owner, FSH,
32,000 miles, Full Leather **SOLD**



2010 10 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 2.0
TDi SE 5-door, White,
41,000 miles,
2 owners, FSH £11,499



2009 09 VW POLO TDi BLUE
MOTION 3-door, Manual, Metallic
Silver, 65,000 miles, FSH,
£Nil Road Tax £5,999



2010 60 CITROEN C3 1.6 HDI EXCLUSIVE
5-door Manual, Bright Blue Metallic,
23,000 miles, £30 pa Road Tax
£7,999



2007 57 MERCEDES C220 CDI ELEGANCE
Auto, Metallic Silver, full leather,
77,000 miles, FSH **SOLD**

2010 59	ALFA ROMEO 1.4 MITO LUSSO 3-door 6-speed. Bright Red, 39,300 miles, alloy wheels, air con	£6,999
2002 52	ALFA ROMEO SPIDER T-SPARK LUSSO Convertible. Silver Metallic, leather seats, alloy wheels, 58,100 miles.....	£3,699
2008 08	AUDI A4 2.0 TDi SE Saloon 6 speed Manual. Metallic Grey, only 26,000 miles, FSH.....	£12,999
2007 56	AUDI A4 AVANT 2.0 TFSI S-LINE QUATTRO Metallic Silver, 6 Speed Manual, Leather, only 51,000 miles, FSH	£9,999
2003 53	AUDI A4 1.9TDi SE Saloon, 130 BHP, 6 sp Manual, Metallic Blue, 64,000 miles, FSH & cam belt.....	£4,299
2010 10	BMW 118 des 6-Speed Manual 5-door. Bright Red, FSH, 2012 62,000 miles.....	£10,499
2010 60	BMW 318i ES SALOON Manual. 1 owner, 27,000 miles, Metallic Black, FSH.....	£11,999
2009 09	BMW 116d SE 5-door Manual. Light Blue Metallic, £30.00 a year Road Tax, 60,000 miles FSH	£8,799
2010 60	CITROEN C3 1.6 HDi EXCLUSIVE 5-door Manual. Bright Blue Metallic, 23,000 miles, £30 pa Road Tax.....	£7,999
2009 59	CITROEN C4 VTR+ HDi 5-door. Red, 60,200 miles	£5,799
2012 12	CITROEN DS3 1.6 HDi D SPORT Manual. Metallic Blue, Black roof, 11,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH	£12,999
2011 11	CITROEN C3 PICASSO VTR+ 1.6 HDi, Manual, Bright Blue Metallic, 26,000 miles, Â£30 per year road tax.....	£7,999
2010 60	FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5-door Manual. Bright Blue Metallic, only 5,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH	£8,999
2009 59	FORD MONDEO 1.8 TDCi Edge Hatchback. Metallic Grey, 56,000 miles	£6,499
2006 56	FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC Automatic door, only 39,000 miles, FSH, Metallic Blue	SOLD
2006 06	FORD S-MAX 7 SEATER 1.8 TDCi ZETEC Manual, Metallic Blue, 125,000 miles.....	£4,499
2010 10	FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 1.6 TDCi 5-door. Metallic Red, 35,000 miles, £30 pa Road Tax	£8,999
2010 10	FORD FIESTA 1.6 TITANIUM 5-door. Manual, Metallic Red, 18,000 miles, one owner, FSH	£8,999
2007 56	FORD FIESTA 1.2 ZETEC 3-door, Metallic Black, 36,000 miles, FSH.....	£4,199
2008 58	FORD GALAXY 1.8 TDCi ZETEC Metallic Red, 77,000 miles, Manual, FSH.....	£7,999
2010 10	FORD MONDEO 1.6 EDGE Metallic Grey, 54,000 miles, FSH	£5,999
2004 04	FORD C-MAX 2.0 TDCi GHIA Manual, 66,000 miles, Metallic Green	£3,999
2003 53	HONDA CRV 2.0 SPORT 4x4 Manual, Bright Red, 125,000 miles	£2,499
2010 59	KIA SPORTAGE XS CRDi 4X4 Manual, Metallic Blue, 1 owner, FSH, 32,000 miles, Full Leather.....	SOLD
2005 55	KIA CARENS 2.0 DIESEL LE Manual, Metallic Grey, Full Leather, 96,000 miles	SOLD
2008 08	LANDROVER FREELANDER 2 2.2d XS Manual Metallic Red, 68,000 miles, privacy glass, bluetooth, FSH.....	£12,999
2007 07	LANDROVER FREELANDER 2 2.2d SE Automatic Only 36,000 miles, Champagne Silver Metallic, full leather, pan roof, Sat Nav, FSH	SOLD
2004 04	MAZDA MX-5 1.6 Metallic Silver, 43,000 miles, FSH	£3,499
2007 57	MERCEDES C220 CDI ELEGANCE Auto. Metallic Silver, full leather, 77,000 miles, FSH.....	SOLD
2012 62	MG 6 1.8 TURBO HATCH 5-door, Manual, 1,800 miles, White. Like brand new.....	£8,999
2011 11	NISSAN JUKE 1.6 ACENTA Premium Pack, White, 26,000 miles, FSH.....	£9,999
2010 10	NISSAN QUASQAI +2 1.5 DCi TEKNA 7 Seater, Manual, Metallic Black, Leather, Sat Nav, 29,000 miles	SOLD
2009 58	NISSAN QASQAI TEKNA 6-speed, Manual 2.0, Petrol, 2WD, Bright Blue, 49,000 miles, Full Leather, Pan Roof, FSH	£9,499
2004 04	NISSAN TERRANO 2.7 TDi SE 4x4 7 SEATER Metallic Silver, Manual, 86,000 miles	£3,999
2007 57	PEUGEOT 207 CC SPORT 1.6 Manual. Metallic Silver, 43,000 miles, FSH.....	£5,499
2011 11	PEUGEOT 207 VERVE 1.4 5-door. Light Metallic Blue, 24,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH.....	£6,999
2011 61	PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 1.0, 3dr, Bright Blue, 21,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH	£5,799
2005 55	PEUGEOT 206 1.4 VERVE 3-door, Bright Red.....	SOLD
2010 60	PEUGEOT 3008 CROSSOVER ACTIVE 1.6 HDi Manual, Red Metallic, One Owner, only 6000 miles	£9,799
1999 T	PORSCHE BOXSTER 2.5 Manual, Metallic Blue, Hard Top, Leather, 66,000 miles, FSH	SOLD
2010 10	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 5-door. Blue, 1 owner, 21,000 miles.....	£6,999
2010 10	RENAULT MODUS 1.2 EXPRESSION 5-door, Manual. Bright Blue Metallic. 1 owner, 42,000 miles, FSH.....	£5,499
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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

deaths



BAKER

Bill

Of Priorslee, Telford.

On March 3, 2014, aged 74 years.

The much loved Father of John and Marian, Grandad to Max, Harley and Karen and Great-Grandad of Jimmy.

Formerly employed by G.K.N. Sankey and E.S.B. Services, latterly of Bakers Patterns Ltd.

Service at Shrewsbury Crematorium on Thursday, March 20, 2014, at 11am.

Family flowers only please.

Donations, if wished, to The British Heart Foundation, for which purpose a collection box will be provided at the Crematorium.

Inquiries please to

CLIVE PUGH
Funeral Directors
45, Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY3 6BB
Telephone: 01743 244644

BATEMAN

Phil

Passed away suddenly on March 3, 2014, aged 68 years.

Precious Husband and Soulmate of Jenny, adored Dad of Lisa, Andrew, Neal and Adam. Father-in-law of Glenn and Nic and much loved and adored Grandad of Lara, Alex, Chelsey, Robbie, Zak, Maddie and Libby.

Funeral Service at Pentrebychan Crematorium, Wrexham on Friday, March 14, 2014 at 10.30am.

Family flowers only please but donations, if desired, to The British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research UK.

Inquiries to

W.E. PRICE

Funeral Directors,

Salop Road,

Oswestry.

Telephone 01691 652995.

FOULKES

John Bryan

M.B.E.

Died peacefully at home on March 2, 2014.

Much loved Husband and Friend to Jean, devoted and loving Father to Glyn and Sally Ann, Taid to Donna and Gran Gran to Chloe.

Will be greatly missed by Family and Friends.

Funeral Service at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury on Friday, March 14, at 2.30pm.

Family flowers only.

Donations, if desired, to Shropshire Disabled Cricket Association, Shrewsbury Rotary Charities and The Respiratory Trust Fund at The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES & SONS

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Oswestry

Telephone 01691 653116.

SUCKLEY

John Charles

Passed away peacefully at home, in the presence of Mary, Caroline, Elizabeth, Catherine, Jo, on March 8, 2014.

Will be greatly missed by all his Family and Friends.

A Thanksgiving Service will be held at St Andrew's Parish Church, Great Ness, on Monday, March 17, at 2pm.

Family flowers only, donations to Rural Stress, Great Ness Church and the Severn Hospice.

All inquiries to

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acknowledgements

GLASSON

John Henry

Maureen, Ian and Julie would sincerely like to thank Family, Friends, Colleagues and Neighbours for the kindness, support and loving messages and memories received on the sad loss of a wonderful Husband, Father, Brother and Brother-in-law.

We would like to thank you for your donations, amounting to £710, which is to be donated to the Severn Hospice.

Thank you to Rev Shirley Small for a lovely Service and to Frank Painter and Sons, Funeral Directors for all their support and professionalism.

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Closing date: Friday 21 March 2014; interviews to be held on Wednesday 26 March 2014.

Further particulars and an application form for these posts may be obtained from the Headmaster's Secretary, Miss Jones, Oswestry School, Upper Brook Street, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 2TL, telephone 01691 655711 or email enquiries@oswestryschool.org.uk.

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Schools show off their skills for judges

STUDENTS from throughout Shropshire showed off their technology skills when they took part in a challenge at Oswestry's secondary school.

The event at the Marches School was run by the Oswestry and Borderlands Rotary Club and saw students from The Marches School compete against pupils from Adcote School, Oswestry School and St Martins School. In total, around 70 students took part.

Working in teams, students were required to complete an engineering technology themed task and were assessed on their ability to plan their time effectively, work as part of a team, generate ideas, analyse their designs and produce a final product.

The task was to design and build a manually operated robotic arm to grip and move a tennis ball from a distance of 1.5m.

Rotarian and event organiser, Cliff Wood, said: "The opportunity to work in groups, designing and building models to solve practical problems is extremely useful for students."

"They learn about planning and cooperation in coming up with effective solutions."

This year's Technology Tournament was sponsored by The British Ironworks Centre, Booka Bookshop and Café and Fullwoods.

Government scheme is helping deprived children

MORE than 500 deprived children in Powys have benefitted from a Welsh Government scheme that helps them have the right start in life.

The latest figures show that 525 children in Powys received Flying Start services in 2012/13, and 23,579 children in all of Wales.

Flying Start offers eligible parents free quality childcare for children under the age of four, parenting support, an enhanced health visitor service and help with their children's early language development.

Course for the deaf in county

A specialist course for adults who have lost their hearing will run for the first time in Shropshire next month.

Known as the Self Management Programme, the course gives people with recent or long-standing hearing loss, of any degree, the opportunity to gain information and knowledge that can really make a difference to their lives.

The programme is run by the national charity Hearing Link, which is teaming up with the Shropshire-based charity Signal to make it accessible locally.

The free course takes place one day a month over three months.

It will start on April 9 at the Trinity Centre in Meole Brace in Shrewsbury, continuing on May 14 and concluding on June 11. Partners and family members of people with hearing loss are also welcome to attend. Places are limited, so those wishing to take part must register. Contact Hearing Link at helpdesk@hearinglink.org, tel 0300 111 1113 or SMS 07526 123 255, or Signal at info@signal.org.uk or tel 01743 364 644.

Deputy minister for tackling poverty Vaughan Gething told assembly members that the £279 million expansion of Flying Start will help reach more families than ever before.

Ministers are investing more than £254 million of revenue funding in the programme over the four years of the expansion, from 2012 to 2016, and £25 million of capital funding to develop the infrastructure.

Mr Gething said: "I am delighted to be able to say that we are on track to deliver our commitment to double the number of children that benefit from Flying Start, one of our key commitments to the people of Wales."

"The undeniable truth is that children living in poverty are much more likely to have worse health outcomes, worse education outcomes, and poorer job prospects. Poor children are more likely to become poor adults who then go on to become parents of poor children."

"Flying Start has a key role to play in breaking this cycle and that is why we have a clear commitment to expand the number of children benefitting from this policy. We are making a difference and investing in the future of some of the poorest families right across Wales. By 2016 we want to see 36,000 children, that's one in four of all children in Wales below the age of four, benefitting from Flying Start."

Mikey targets games



Mickey Hall in his team kit

AN Army veteran who broke his neck and back in a training accident has been selected to be part of a British Paralympic Association programme, which could see him compete in the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

Mikey Hall, 38, a former soldier in the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, was talent spotted for archery and pistol shooting after taking part in a skills test at Help for Heroes' Phoenix House Recovery Centre in Catterick.

Mr Hall, originally from St Martins, near Oswestry, is in a wheelchair after falling on an assault course near Catterick Garrison in 2000 and breaking his neck and back in a number of places.

Mr Hall, who now lives in Richmond, North Yorkshire, said: "This is a really great opportunity for me. Help for Heroes has given me the chance to go away to the Winter Olympics and see how it's run and hopefully get to Rio in 2016."

Mr Hall, who is also a qualified archery coach, said he was looking forward to all aspects of the Games.

NEWS in brief

Work on water mains finished

WORK to replace water mains in two border towns has been completed.

Severn Trent Water has finished work in Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant and Llanfair Caereinion.

Programme engineer Dave Kiernan, said: "In October we started work in Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant, we have invested £250,000 to replace two kilometres of water supply pipes, and in January we started work on a second investment of £100,000 to replace nearly a kilometre of water pipes in Llanfair Caereinion."

"We'd like to say thank you to residents, businesses and road users for their continued co-operation and patience."

Course to teach cash management

A free three-week money management course is being held in Oswestry next month. CAP Money is being run by PurpleFish and will teach budgeting skills and a simple, cash-based system.

Course organiser VJ Lonsdale said: "This course will help anyone to get more in control of their finances, so they can save, give and prevent debt. It will start on April 20 at 7pm in Milanos Coffee Shop, Old Chapel Court, Oswestry. Spaces are limited so for more information or to book a place visit www.purplefish.org.uk or contact VJ on Call 07964 726407."

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FEATURE & NEWS

NEWS
in briefThere's a buzz
about bee events

TWO bee-themed events will be taking place in Oswestry this month.

Both events will be held at Hermon Chapel, Chapel Street, and will be suitable for all ages.

The first is a showing of the award-winning documentary *More Than Honey* on March 20. The free screening will start at 7.30pm.

A family bee day full of activities and crafts will be held on March 22, organised by Friends of the Earth. During the day, which will run from 10am to 3pm, visitors will be invited to taste a honey-themed range of food and drink and make bug hotels.

Charity collection
taken by thieves

THIEVES have stolen a charity donation box from an Oswestry shop, which was collecting for the Welsh Air Ambulance Service.

The box was tied to the leg of a table in the Rowan-thorn Shop on Old Chapel Court, but was cut free and it is believed to have been taken just before closing time on Friday.

Mike Coppock, who owns the shop, said he first noticed that the box had been taken shortly after opening on Saturday morning but believes it may have been taken before 5.30pm, the shop's closing time, on Friday.

Rozi is hoping to realise her book deal dreams

TALENTED writer Rozi Moore is on the verge of realising her dream and becoming a published novelist after being shortlisted for the Richard and Judy competition to "search for a bestseller."

But the 29-year-old may have never picked up a pen if not for the support of the women in her family.

Rozi said she was inspired by her grandmother, Margaret James, who became one of the Open University's oldest graduates a few years ago when she gained a degree in her 90s. Rozi is now studying for her own OU degree in English.

She said she was also encouraged by her mother, who was an English literature teacher. "It's something in the family I think, reading and writing books," she said.

"It was my mum who told me about the competition. She's part of the Richard and Judy book club and told me the competition was running."

"My goal in life is to be published. I've been writing for years. The first book I sent off to agents and got nothing back and, looking back at it now, I can see why – it wasn't very good."

Rozi's writing has since improved and, having submitted her story to the competition last year, she was astonished and delighted to be told she'd made the shortlist this week. She is now hoping her writing will prove good enough to scoop the first prize of a £50,000 book deal and distribution deal through WHSmith.

Of the thousands of entries just seven stories were chosen by TV presenters Richard and Judy, including Rozi's story *I Am Aphrodite*. She said: "It's a national competition they've been running and they wanted the first 10,000 to 12,000 words of the story. They had thousands of entries and I couldn't believe it when they said I'd made the shortlist. The main character in the story is something between a muse and a person, and her mission in life is to spread love around the world. It's a bit like the Greek gods but she's not a god. Her name is Aphrodite and the title of the book is *I Am*

WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE

with Pam
Kingsley



Aphrodite. It's like love letters to the people she meets along the way. I've been working on and off with books for years but I liked the idea of a race of wanderers who touch people's lives and then vanish. It's like how love can touch people and change people.

"I haven't finished it yet. I've got to finish it by the end of August. I'm about three fifths of the way through and I started it about a year ago."

As well as writing her book, Rozi, who was born in Whitchurch and moved to Oswestry when she was 16, has been finding other outlets for her creativity by penning a play, *The Wizards of Oswald*, which will be performed in Oswestry in April at The Centre, Oak Street.

In the official announcement of the contest shortlist on Richard and Judy's website, Judy said: "We've had the most amazing response and received thousands of entries which we very much enjoyed reading. The standard has been incredibly high." The winner will be announced in September.



Rozi Moore is hoping for success in the Search for a Bestseller competition

Meeting will hear all about guide dogs

SHROPSHIRE Disability Network Management Committee is holding a meeting at the Oswestry Cricket Club in Morda Road, Oswestry today (Thursday) at 11am.

Guests are welcome to the first meeting of the year.

Lin Stapely from Oswestry is taking along her Guide Dog "Woody" and will talk about the work of Guide Dogs, the training dogs undertake enabling them to help their owner in many aspects of daily living.

Dementia Friends Champions Dr Sal Riding and Sonia Roberts will give a presentation on what a Dementia Friend is and how people can become a Dementia Friend. The organisation wants to attract a million Dementia Friends in England by 2015.

"As 2014 is the Year of Dementia, we feel raising awareness is very important," Ruby Hartshorn from the committee said.

"We hope by bringing this meeting to Oswestry, our members from that area will attend and we have a full house, just like had when we visited Oswestry in June 2013."

To find out more about our work and to get further information about this meeting please visit www.shropshire-disability.net.

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FARMING

Farming union is set to tackle key issues



Farmers Union protecting the environment.

WATERCOURSE protection and sustaining farmland bio-diversity are some of the key issues West Midlands farmers are exploring.

Many already have schemes in place to benefit wildlife but further ways to promote habitat are being looked at as part of the Campaign for the Farmed Environment, CFE.

The campaign is a national farmer-led voluntary initiative, backed by the NFU, to encourage farmers and land managers to protect and enhance

Advertising feature

the environmental value of farmland, through measures that sit alongside productive agriculture. First piloted in Warwickshire four years ago, farmers helped achieve the Government's target figure of 70 per cent of farmland in agri-environment schemes and it is hoped the rest of the region will have similar success.

Each county has an appointed CFE co-ordinator who will be responsible for promoting and implementing a farm environmental programme.

The Shropshire liaison group met in

January and identified key issues.

Chris Seabridge, Shropshire CFE co-ordinator, said: "A range of issues were discussed including the delivery of best practice advice to Shropshire farmers concerning the management of soils, fertilisers and pesticides with a view to running advisory workshops."

The groups are made up of NFU staff and members, agronomists, representatives from the wildlife trusts, LEAF, RSPB and other organisations including the CLA as well as the key Defra bodies, Natural England and the Environment Agency.

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NEWS

NEWS
in briefActress is needed
for Oswestry play

A drama group in Oswestry is looking for a woman to take on a small but important role in its upcoming play.

The Wizards of Oswald has been written and is being directed by Rozi Moore, but she is currently also having to take to the stage as not enough actresses have been found to fill all the roles.

"The play is all about local legends and places and will be performed at The Centre in Oswestry at the end of April," she said.

Anyone interested in the role or in helping with the production can visit www.facebook.com/oswestry-drama or call Rozi on 07989 811401.

Incredible Edible
to meet in town

A group which aims to encourage people to grow their own food is looking for more volunteers to help carry out projects around the town during 2014.

The Incredible Edible Oswestry group will meet on March 18 to discuss suggestions, plans and ideas for the coming year.

Sue Stedman, from Incredible Edible Oswestry, said: "Our ambitions are only limited by how many people get involved. Days are getting longer now, and keen gardeners will be sowing seeds."

The steering group will meet from 6pm to 7.30pm at Cornerstone Church in Roff Street, Oswestry.

Faster broadband is on the way across county

FASTER broadband could be on its way to more areas after a new partnership between campaigners and council leaders was officially agreed.

Shropshire Council will work with the Shropshire and Marches Campaign for Better Broadband in an attempt to find the match-funding that will allow the county to access up to £11.38 million of Government funding.

by James Pugh

The Superfast Extension Programme (SEP) money is available on the condition that councils obtain match funding.

The new partnership has been established following last week's full council, in which the issue of the money was raised by Patrick Cosgrove, chairman of the campaign group.

The main aim of the partnership is to find sources of funding so Shropshire Council can make sure it can match fund the £11.38 million made available.

Steve Charmley, Shropshire Council's cabinet member responsible for broadband, said: "The SEP money will allow us to reach more people in the most rural areas of Shropshire and Broadband is a priority for this council."

"We've seen the struggles rural areas can have with their internet connection and this partnership will help us unlock the potential of this fund."

Mr Cosgrove said: "Expe-

rience elsewhere has shown that the involvement of residents can deliver high speed broadband very effectively. I hope that many communities in Shropshire will work with Shropshire Council to devise technological and financial solutions that give priority to those who are currently in danger of missing out."

The money is in addition to the ongoing Connecting Shropshire programme, Shropshire Council's partnership with BT that is aiming to make broadband available to 93 per cent of the county.

It is hoped the new cash, which has to be match-funded by the council, could help take broadband access rates in the local authority up to 100 per cent.

Mr Cosgrove spoke to the full council last week after more than 1,200 people signed a petition on the need for better internet access in more remote areas of the county.

Students meet Olympic medalist



Pupils meet Olympic gold medalist canoeist Tim Baillie

A group of students from Oswestry were thrilled to meet Olympic gold medalist canoeist Tim Baillie when they represented North Shropshire at the Shropshire Homes School Sport Festival.

The 25 students from The Marches School took part in the event, which was part of the Sainsbury's School Games, at Lilleshall National Sports Centre where they met the Olympic

hero during the opening ceremony. Since the beginning of the 2013/14 academic year, primary and secondary school teams have been competing in a wide range of level two qualifying events in the hope of progressing to the festival.

Despite freezing conditions, the Marches students competed in Key Stage 3 girls' dodgeball, Key Stage 3 boys' hockey and Key Stage 3 mixed

cross-country events, and were able to try their hand at other sporting and cultural activities throughout the day when not competing in their events.

The girls' dodgeball team finished fourth, but the boys' hockey had to be postponed due to deteriorating weather conditions. Despite poor racing conditions the cross country did go ahead. The day concluded with a ceremony in Wenlock Hall.

Full night of music offered in town

ALAN Johnson's programme entitled "Mighty Joe Green, the Colossus of Italy", presented to members of Oswestry Recorded Music Society, was devoted to the music of Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901).

It began with the Overture to "Sicilian Vespers", followed by tenor arias from "Il Trovatore" and "Rigoletto", sung by Plácido Domingo.

Then came two soprano arias, from "I Lombardi" and "Rigoletto", sung by Renata Scotta and Ileana Contrubas, and Choruses from "Don Carlo" and "Il Trovatore" performed by the Slovak Philharmonic Choir and Orchestra.

The famous Quartet from "Rigoletto" and some ballet music from "Sicilian Vespers" completed the first part of the programme. After the interval, the Sophie Opera Choir and Orchestra performed extracts from Verdi's "Requiem" and the Britten Quartet played movements from his String Quartet in E minor.

The recital ended with the Triumphal March from "Aida", with the Bratislava CSR Symphony Orchestra and Choir.

The Society's meetings are held at "The Cube", Oswald Road, Oswestry, between the months of September and May. Recitals begin at 7.30pm and end at about 9.30pm.

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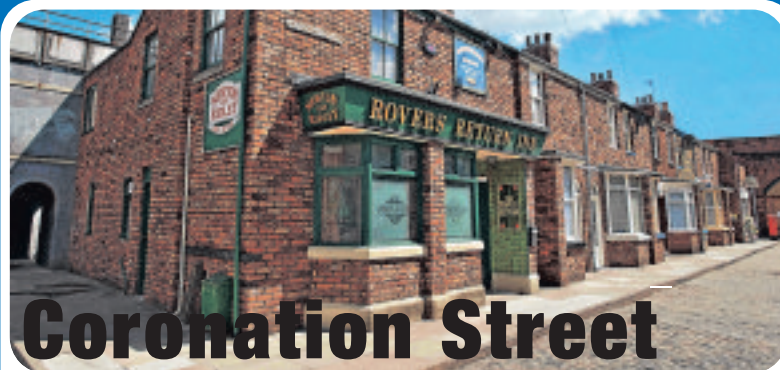
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This two-day trip also includes a visit to the charming medieval city of Chester, where there will be plenty of time to explore the Rows – two tiers of covered walkways found along the four main streets, and the beautiful red sandstone cathedral. There's also a great variety of shopping from independent boutiques to high street stores and plenty of places for something to eat and drink.



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Bike ride brings in £5,000 to college

TWO friends got on their bikes to raise more than £5,000 for a college for students with learning difficulties.

Mike Gardner and Steve Sadler, both directors at Shrewsbury insurance brokers and independent financial services firm Clifford Challinor, took on the marathon cycle ride in Italy for the Friends of Derwen College.

Their charity bike ride through Tuscany took them on a circular route beginning and ending in Lucca, with stop-offs in Florence, Siena and Volterra.

"We covered 250 miles in four days," Mr Gardner said.

"I don't think we did too badly, considering we only just bought our bikes," said Steve.

"We also had to contend with a sat nav that wanted to take us via motorways and over mountains, to say nothing of a support team that decided they would rather spend their hard-earned holiday relaxing elsewhere in Italy."

He thanked sponsors, their clients and insurers, for their generous support.

Andrew Harris, the college's Director of Student Services and also a member of the Friends of the Derwen, said the college was extremely grateful for the cheque for £5,046.

Man gets prison term for keeping shotgun at home

A man who claimed he found a broken and rusty but illegal sawn-off double-barrelled shotgun on waste ground has been jailed for four years.

Royston Pughe, from Oswestry, pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing at Chelmsford Crown Court to possessing a prohibited firearm on 25 May last year at his then home in Matching Green, Essex. But Pughe claimed he had found it about a month before so should not face the mandatory five years in jail. Sentencing was adjourned until yesterday when Pughe, now of Shrewsbury Road, Oswestry,

Children in gym festival

PUPILS from six schools took part in a gymnastics festival in Oswestry.

The annual Key Stage 1 (Primary) Gymnastics Festival was held at The Marches School.

Trefonen, Whittington, Woodside, Oswestry School, Weston Rhyn and Gobowen Primary schools took part in the event, with young sports leaders from The Marches School coordinating all the activities throughout the day.

Each sports leader teamed up with a different primary school and provided an hour-long gymnastics session for the pupils. Students led a warm up session for each group and helped the participants prepare for their vault and floor routines.

Sports leaders Chloe Becker, Niamh Maguire and Hannah Grieg judged the routines during the competition and had the responsibility of awarding gold, silver and bronze to the winners.

Zoe Kempster, Willow Taylor, Molly Evans and Lauren Sanders provided a gymnastics and dance showcase for the crowd.

ry, also pleaded guilty to producing 39 cannabis plants, which were found by police in his Essex house.

The 42-year-old claimed they were there because he was merely watering them for two weeks as a favour to a friend.

Judge Anthony Goldstaub QC said he accepted Pughe's "slightly improbable" explanation of how he found the shotgun. He agreed there were "exceptional circumstances" to mitigate the five-year mandatory term and jailed him for two years.

But he rejected Pughe's claim about the cannabis plants and imposed a consecutive two-year term for that offence.

The gun had been lying behind Pughe's Matching Green property. A fence had blown down and while the panels were being repaired Pughe went on to the field.

He told the court he put the gun and ammunition in his garage, later moving them upstairs. He knew it was an illegal weapon but did not notify police, he said.

The judge said: "The forend was not with it. A shotgun of this antiquity has three parts, the barrels, the stock and forend. Significantly the defendant didn't emphasise its absence which suggests that he is indeed, as he says, ignorant of the use and nature of firearms of this kind."

A gun, ammunition and growing drugs was "a suspicious toxic combination", said the judge, but Pughe's explanation made it less sinister.

Businessman's challenge



Steve Kaye, ready for charity challenge.

A printing specialist will be swapping the ink of the workshop for the mud of the assault course when he embarks on a charity challenge.

Steve Kaye, of Sarah's Embroidery, is hoping to raise hundreds of pounds for Macmillan Cancer Care by taking in the 'Tough Mudder' challenge in September.

The challenge is billed as "probably the toughest event on the planet" by organisers, and Steve said he was looking forward to it - with some apprehension.

He said: "I have never even run five kilometres before, let alone a marathon, and the Tough Mudder is apparently the equivalent of running a marathon through mud."

"I am 35 now and not as fit as I used to be, so I thought setting myself a challenge would spur me on to get into shape."

Sarah's Embroidery, in Penley, near Ellesmere, has a partnership with Macmillan Cancer Care which encourages customers to add a small donation to their invoice, which is matched by the firm.

NEWS in brief

£12,500 donation to MS Society

WELSH farmers and those in the farming industry have helped to raise £12,500 for charity by organising sponsored events over the past year.

NFU Cymru members and staff organised and took part in events across Wales including sponsored walks, concerts, golf events and a race night to help raise much needed funds for the MS Society in Wales.

Mary James, director of NFU Cymru, said: "A special thank you must go to everyone who has helped to raise this tremendous sum of money. We are pleased to be able to offer some support to this extremely worthwhile cause."

Pupils enjoyed dance workshop

YOUNGSTERS were given the opportunity to work with an international dancer and learn part of a professional dance routine this week.

Danny Connor, a professional dancer from Motionhouse Dance Company, visited The Marches School in Oswestry to lead a workshop with 15 Key Stage 3 students.

The workshop was on weight transference, encouraging students to support each other in various dance positions.

The students then learned a section of the Motionhouse's professional new piece "Broken".

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Jerusalem

Galilee and the Dead Sea

Jerusalem and the Holy Land represent an extraordinary collection of both classical and Biblical sites unmatched anywhere in the world.

The ancient city of Caesarea is the first visit where a guided tour is included. Built by King Herod as capital of Roman Judea, it was the biggest port in the Eastern Mediterranean and today has a host of superb remains to explore.

Then it's on to the amazing city of Acre. Explore the beautifully vaulted and huge Knights Halls which are in a state of almost unrivalled preservation and display medieval European military architecture. A stop in Nazareth is then made to visit the great church of the annunciation before continuing on to Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee.

Crossing the Sea of Galilee by boat a visit is made to Capernaum, where Jesus lived, and nearby is Tabgha, the site of the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000. Overlooking the whole area is the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount.

Surrounded by haunting desert scenery is the Dead Sea. Take a dip and bob like a cork - definitely one of life's must-do experiences! Then journey to the spectacular fortress of Masada, the site of one of the ancient Roman's greatest sieges and where the desert climate has preserved the site and the eight Roman encampments surrounding the fortress.

In Jerusalem there's so much to see and experience. Visit the Mount of Olives and the world's oldest continually used cemetery for a panoramic view of the ancient city, punctuated by the beautiful Dome of the Rock where Muhammed rose to heaven.

After touring the Garden of Gethsemane, enter the warren of streets and alleyways that make up the Old City. Visit the Western Wall and walk along the Via Dolorosa before finally arriving at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre built over Golgotha where Jesus was crucified. The decoration here is astounding and contains the final five Stations of the Cross, the church is uniquely shared between the Catholic, Orthodox and Armenian churches.

A visit to the Yad Vashem is where the Holocaust memorial is located and the Shrine of the Book where the Dead Sea Scrolls are displayed.

Finally, arriving in Bethlehem, visit the Church of the Nativity and Shepherd's Fields. It is one of the oldest churches in the Holy Land still in use and marks the site where the Virgin Mary is said to have given birth to Jesus.



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NOSTALGIA & NEWS

NEWS
in briefForce searching
for new specials

WEST Mercia Police is on the lookout for people who have got what it takes to become a special constable.

The force is looking for people who may not realise that they already have the skills needed to make a special constable. The campaign highlights the transferable skills that people already have and shows that what people do in their everyday lives, can easily be applied to being a Special.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a special, should visit www.specialswanted.co.uk, email specials@warwickshireandwestmercia.pnn.police.uk or call (01905) 331433.

Two held after
doorman bitten

TWO people have been arrested after an Oswestry nightclub doorman suffered a bite injury to his back during an assault.

The doorman was working at Gibsons in Oswestry when the attack happened, police said.

They have appealed for witnesses to the assault, which happened at the New Street premises.

A 26-year-old woman and a 24-year-old man have been arrested on suspicion of assault, causing actual bodily harm.

They have been given police bail while inquiries continue.

Readers help clear up the picture mysteries

Toby Neal

IT'S always great to get feedback about the old pictures we carry and now we can give updates and information which have come from you, our readers.

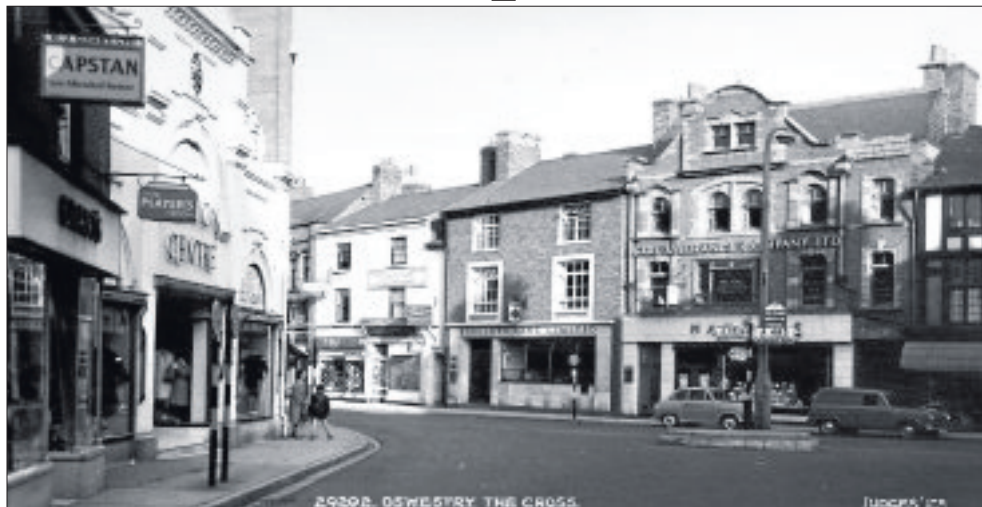
When we published a photo of Great War soldiers we thought trying to identify them after almost 100 years would be a long shot, and so it has proved.

Nevertheless, we have moved things further forward thanks to Christopher Mills, of Maserfield, Oswestry.

The picture showed Oswestry soldiers, and is an old family photo which was handed down to Barbara Marshall, of Broughton, near Chester. She wanted to find out more because she was doing family history research.

Mr Mills says: "Through a magnifying glass I can just make out the shoulder title of the soldier on the right and that is the KS LI - King's Shropshire Light Infantry. "As to the medal ribbons, they don't appear to be World War One decorations.

"The second ribbon could possibly be the India General Service Medal 1908-35. The WW1 medals were the 1914 Star (Mons), 1914-15 Star, War Medal 1914-20 and the Victory Medal 1914-19."



The Cross, Oswestry. Philip Jenkins has filled in some of the blanks on the shop names.

You'll also remember that we carried a photo of The Cross, Oswestry, dating, we thought, from the late 1950s or early 1960s.

The photo was a postcard loaned by our regular contributor Ray Farlow.

Thanks to Philip Jenkins, who emailed in, we can now fill in the blanks. He said: "The missing names of Oswestry's shops in Cross Street are Wilson's Fashion Centre, and across the road on the right of Barclays Bank is

Marston's shoe shop. These prints of our town centre do bring back memories. I am waiting to see if Ray Farlow has a picture depicting the Allard P1 delivery van owned by G F & A Brown in Church Street in 1950. The odd thing is

that Allard never produced vans - so it must have been modified."

We don't know if Ray has such a picture, but if somebody reading this does, well... you know where to contact us!

Father's haircut to raise cash for appeal

A children's hospice has been given more than £1,200 after the father of one of its former patients took part in a 100-day charity haircut.

Ian Moul, whose son John died in 2011 aged 16, carried out a Haircut 100 challenge which involved him not cutting his hair or beard for 100 days.

John spent the last few weeks of his life at Hope House and since his death Ian has set himself a target of raising at least £500 for Hope House every year.

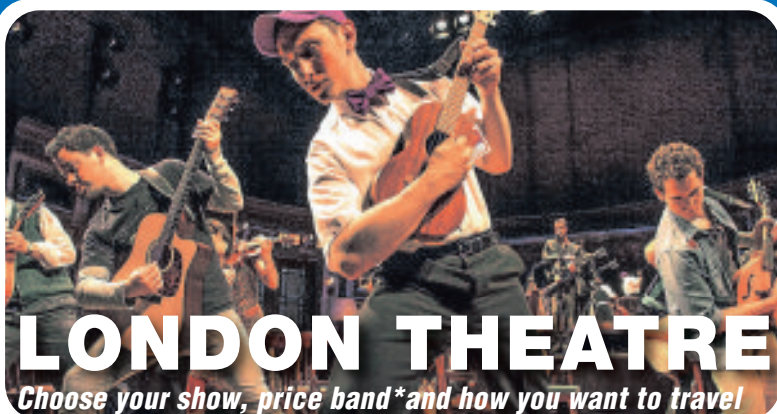
Since the start of November Mr Moul, who lives in Wigan, grew a winter beard and decided to continue growing both his beard and his hair for 100 days - this became the 100 day charity haircut.

He finally had his hair cut and beard shaved last month at Hope House's office in Wigan.

Lynsey Kilvert, fundraiser for Hope House Children's Hospices, said: "Ian raised over £1,200 with his 100 day charity haircut challenge.

"He would like a special note of thanks to go to Bob Vernon at Lowri Beck Services in Wigan for his generous support and to Laura, Ruth, Colette, Eve, and Michaela for helping him to promote the event, taking photos and cutting his hair on the day."

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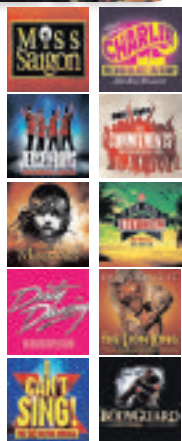
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FEATURE & NEWS

Watch out for Mr Toad now spring has sprung

SPRING perhaps has finally sprung. Skylarks singing, frogs mating and assorted choristers from the dawn chorus clearing their throats.

This week I've seen my first bumblebee of the year and my first butterfly. The origin of the word "butterfly" is often said to have originated from one of the first butterflies to emerge, the brilliantly yellow-coloured (or should that be "butter"-coloured?) Brimstone.

Mine, for the record, was a Peacock.

Although we've experienced a mild winter we have, of course, had to put up with a lot of water and dedicated, not to mention long-suffering, readers will remember I touched on some of the benefits of all that water.

Two of the species mentioned are really March specialists.

Firstly it's worth a visit to your local wetland reserve, or failing that, the nearest flooded field. Lapwings begin their chaotic mating display this month and, if you're lucky enough to witness this, you will appreciate why they are called both "lapwing" and "pee-wit". The former refers to their erratic, stunt-kite flight and the latter to the sound they emit while performing it.

This once-familiar farmland bird has suffered significant declines of more than 50 per cent (much of it in the last decade alone) and is now a Red List species. The decline is largely a result of autumn sowing of crops, which results in crops being too tall and a reduction in uncultivated grassland through increased hill farming.

Again, flooded, waterlogged fields will

ON THE WILDSIDE

with Ben Waddams



provide a small amount of respite for this species this year, but planting patterns and the intensification of some farming methods must be altered if the pee-witting lapwing is to continue to grace our March skies.

Now from pee-wits to "poop-poooops". That is, believe it or not, a rather famous utterance. If you've read Kenneth Grahame's masterpiece, *The Wind in the Willows*, you'll recognise it as belonging to Mr Toad. Common Toads emerge from hibernation in late February and start a hazardous journey to their breeding ponds. Once there, males clasp the females in a special hold known as "Amplexus" during mating.

How do they achieve this special hold? The males have dark nuptial pads on three inner fingers that are very noticeable in the breeding season.

If you find a small single toad this month (the males are generally smaller than the females), have a quick look and see if you can notice these pads.

The aim is for the male and female to remain clasped together for a few days as the female lays her spawn. But other males want in on the action and are desperate to try and ensure that they are the ones that fertilise her eggs. Many toads are killed as they attempt to cross busy roads to return to the same pond year after year. Prints of Ben's artwork can be seen in the Gallery Tearooms, Princess St, Shrewsbury.



Mr Toad in the author's garden.

Deprived Powys kids get help to make right start

MORE than 500 deprived children in Powys have benefited from a Welsh Government scheme that helps them have the right start in life.

The latest figures show that 525 children in Powys received Flying Start services in 2012/13, and 23,579 children in all of Wales.

Flying Start offers eligible parents free quality childcare for children under the age of four, parenting support, an enhanced health visitor service and help with their children's early language development.

Deputy minister for tackling poverty Vaughan Gething told assembly members that the £279 million expansion of Flying Start will help reach more families than ever before.

Ministers are investing more than £254 million of revenue funding in the programme over the four years of the expansion, from 2012 to 2016, and £25 million of capital funding to develop the infrastructure.

Mr Gething said: "I am delighted to be able to say that we are on track to deliver our commitment to double the number of children that benefit from Flying Start, one of our key commitments to the people of Wales."

"The undeniable truth is that children living in poverty are much more likely to have worse health outcomes, worse education outcomes, and poorer job prospects."

"Poor children are more likely to become poor adults who then go on to become parents of poor children."

"Flying Start has a key role to play in breaking this cycle and that is why we have a clear commitment to expand the number of children benefitting from this policy. We are making a difference and investing in the future of some of the poorest families right across Wales."

"By 2016 we want to see 36,000 children, that's one in four of all children in Wales below the age of four, benefitting from Flying Start."

"I have personally been to a number of Flying Start settings across the country where parents have told me that they have seen real improvements in their children's language, social and emotional skills."

"Our aim is for children, no matter where they are born, to have the same start and opportunities in life as others."

Ministers predict that in 2014/15, 32,657 children across Wales are expected to benefit from the programme, reaching 36,000 by 2016.

Advertisement

Help wildlife so we can keep it forever

By Tim Mitchell

The film idea came to me many years ago, as far back as the late 1990's when my parents got me my first camcorder and over the passing years I have gone through many different versions of the film in my head.

Since starting my own photography business in 2010, I feel I am now in a position to move forward with the film. I have always loved photography and the natural world, so combining the two is fantastic. The whole point of the film is to educate children about what we can do to help wildlife.

The film starts by explaining what we do here in North Shropshire on a large scale, to help our local wildlife, to film this part... I'm receiving lots of help from the TG Group and also in many conversations with Stuart Lawrence (Estates manager) at Tudor Griffith's. I have started the planning stage of filming at Woodside school in Oswestry, and after speaking with the head master (Mr McDevitt) I know I have chosen a very good school, that is sure to set an amazing standard of what schools can do to help our wildlife.



Now I have done the slow but interesting work such as getting landowner's permission to film on their land, talking with schools and wildlife trusts its now hands on with the camera every spare chance I get.

I am making the film in my spare time, So on occasions I have to wait several days until I can get out on location filming, I must admit this is frustrating as making a film like this needs to be worked on 24/7. If I miss a certain subject on my only day off, then it may be weeks before I can get to try again, Weather as a big part to play, as each scene needs to blend with the previous, So yes the hit and miss of shoot days is the frustrating part.

The more I move forward with making the film the more I want to add to it, so it can be hard at times, choosing what goes into the film and what I leave out. I am spending every spare bit of time editing, and watching hours of footage, making all the small clips make sense.

Sponsors

Some of the equipment I have purchased myself and other pieces of equipment have been purchased with the kind donations from the films sponsors, TG Group, Seddon Haulage Ltd, OBR Graphics and lots of help on hand from the Shropshire Wildlife Trust. Honestly this film would not have started yet if it wasn't for the kindness of the sponsors.

I am having an amazing time making this film, the only problem now, is that due to the very poor weather we have been getting, the completion date will be later than I originally hoped. I am making the film purely on my own. It is and will continue to take up lots of my time, so I must thank my wife and son for putting up with me out filming every chance I get. Even though I am doing all this myself, I do get some help from my son Andrew, who is 13 years old, but loves getting out filming with me.

Towards the end of 2013 I visited a school in Yorkshire and filmed what they do to help wildlife with their local bio diversity team, which my brother works with, all this wildlife stuff must



be in our blood. Whatever this film project throws at me, I know without a doubt I will love every second of making it.

Once the film is completed every primary school in North Shropshire will receive a copy of the film, in hope it encourages all the young children to enjoy wildlife, respect and protect it. I am enjoying this project so much that I am already making plans for two more bigger films, one will be covering the whole of the UK and another film which will be part filmed in the Scottish highlands and also deep in the Welsh valleys.

And finally I have been asked by a couple of people to make a film that is much more about Oswestry and surrounding areas. Keep an eye out, it may be filmed soon.

Any individual or any business can help sponsor the current film or future films. There are benefits for businesses that sponsor, call or message me for a chat.

Help our wildlife... so we can keep it for ever!

MARKETS

Welshpool Livestock Sales Monday, March 10
Messrs Morris Marshall & Poole and Norman Lloyd report on a lively auction at Buttington Cross.
OTMS (42)
An entry of 42 over thirty month cattle realised an average of 124.43ppkg, and 113.67ppkg for the younger cows. A Salers cow weighing 811kg from IWL & PE Evans, Maes-carneddau, made the top price of £1200.28, Messrs Evans are therefore in receipt of the briarwood Products LTD price of £25 for the highest priced older cow on the day. A Limousin cow weighing 776kg made £1125.20 presented by J R S Hughes & Co, Lower Munlyn. A British Blue cow weighing 799kg from H Hughes & Son, Hendy, made £1102.62. An under 72 months Freisian cow weighing 709kg presented by M E Lloyd, Gate farm made £900.43. An under 48 months Salers heifer weighing 731kg presented by IWL & PE Evans, Maes-carneddau, made £1125.74. An OTM Charolais bull from R H Hughes, Fachwen Fawr, weighed 916kg made £998.44.

FAT CATTLE (6)
An entry of 6 fat cattle averaged 237.92ppkg. A Limousin heavy weight heifer weighing 517kg presented by GW & BA Haynes, Trefnant Isaf, made 250ppkg also a British Blue heifer and a Limousin heifer weighing 525kg, from the same vendor, made 250ppkg. Therefore Messrs Haynes receives the Briarwood Products LTD prize of £25. Two Limousin heifers weighing 532kg and 527kg from Messrs Haynes made 249ppkg and 242ppkg

respectively. Two Limousin heifers presented by J Corfield & Sons, Fairfield, weighing 544kg and 547kg made 221ppkg and 217ppkg.

PRIME HOGGETS (3653)
An entry of 3653 prime hogget's averaged 213.12 pp/kg.
Super Lights (6) to 226pp/kg from R Jones& Sons, Dolwar Fach. Average of 214.60pp/kg.
Lights (279) to 250pp/kg from DB & EFJ Gethin, Dolyrheol. Others to 231pp/kg from J G Ellis & Son, Tynewydd. Average of 208.92pp/kg.
Standards (595) to 252pp/kg from DB & EFJ Gethin, Dolyrheol. Others to 251pp/kg from DB & EFJ Gethin, Dolyrheol. Average of 215.84 pp/kg.
Mediums (1661) to 229pp/kg from P L Harrison, Neuaddlwyd. Others to 227pp/kg from F G & G Mountford, Middle Heldre. Average of 212.81pp/kg.
Heavies (820) to 217pp/kg from M P B Ashton, Belan Ddu, WEG Evans, Llwynywerth, Lythwood Sheep LTD & C W Smith & Co, Uwchyllan. Others to 216pp/kg from Lythwood Sheep LTD. Average of 204.12pp/kg.
Over Weights (229) to 192pp/kg from J S Gwalchmai, 5 Minffordd. Others to 190pp/kg from Lythwood Sheep LTD. Average of 169.98pp/kg.
We advise all fat hogget vendors to belly clip their lambs.

CULL EWE (1898)
A entry of 1898 culls resulted in averages for the ewes of £55.25 and £71.54 for the rams. The ewes topped at £125 from A T Owen, Cloesfynnon. Others to £123.50 for a pen of 2 ewes from I P

Jones, Bryn Clochydd. The cull rams topped at £122 from J J Thomas & Son, Penybanc. A cull ram from TH & ME & EJ Jones, Plas Coch made £118. Weekly sale of cull sheep to follow immediately after the sale of prime lambs at approx 12 noon.

STORE LAMBS
Store Lambs: A slightly reduced entry of 173 store lambs selling with a 100% clearance. Average overall was £65.65 being much improved reflecting the increase in prime hogget prices. Suffolk x mixed and clean lambs sold to £76.50 from L S Philpott & Son, Birch Tree Cottage, with Texel x wether lambs from O & H Moyle, Brynuny, selling to £77. Still a strong demand for store lambs.
Couples: Another strong entry of 103 couples this week, selling to a brighter trade. Top price of the day was achieved by J F Morgan & Son, Plas, for full mouthed Charollais x ewes with twin lambs at foot selling to £164. Next of the day were Suffolk x full mouthed ewes with twin lambs at foot from L & PA Morris & Son, Mount Farm selling to £153.
Cade lambs: An entry of 52 cade lambs were seen selling to an average of £15. Top price of the day was achieved by J D Jones, Croggin-Iddon, for a Texel x tup lamb.
Same again next week with store lambs sold from 10.30am followed with in-lamb ewes, ewes and lambs completing with the sale of cade lambs.

DAIRY CATTLE
Another good show of dairy cattle met with a grand trade, leading the way was a Comestar sired

heifer presented by T G Phillips & Co, Burgedin, which sold for £2100. Two more heifers from the same home made £1900 and £1680. From M R Williams, Wern Holding, was a March 2011 born heifer which sold for £1900. A 2nd calver sired by Dynasty from G R Jones, Pentre farm, giving 30L sold for £1780. Presented by G Jones & Co, Tycerrig was a 6th calver sired by Ards Reunion and a 5th calver sired by Shottle which sold for £1580 and £1550 respectively. A breakdown of prices achieved were as follows: £2000+ 1 lot; £1800-£2000 2 lots; £1600-£1800 3 lots; £1400-£1600 2 lots; < £1400 1 lot.

Forthcoming Sales.
Tuesday 25th March – March Store Cattle Fair
Tuesday 8th April- Store Cattle to include Organics and Weanlings
Monday 14th April- Easter Spring Lamb Show & Sale
Tuesday 29th April- April store cattle Fair

Reminder to Farmers to book a space for BVD meeting here on Monday 17th March, 7pm, Buffet supper provided.

Oswestry Livestock Auctions

March 5
FAT CATTLE: (72)
Another similar number forward sold on a similar trade throughout. Top slots hit 250p for Heifers, 246p for Steers and 220p for Bulls. Highest price in the lump was £1560 for a Heifer. Bottom book 100p for a plain friesian steer and bull. If you have cattle to sell please contact the Auctioneer Jonathan Evans on 07971 002650 or the Market office. Overall

average 184p.
Young Bulls (24) Overall Average 168.5p.
Medium Bulls (6) Average 168p (£870/head) Selling to 225p from M & G V Ellis & Sons Penllys
Heavy Bulls (18) Average 169.5p (£1085/head) Selling to 193p from D & M G Hughes & Sons Tainymynydd
Steers (24) Overall Average 182.5p.
Medium Steers (17) Average 171.5p (£870/head) Selling to 246p from J Edwards Mount Farm
Heavy Steers (7) Average 185.5p (£1215/head) Selling to 222p from T N & B M Davies Cwmgwnen
Heifers (24) Overall Average 202p
Medium Heifers (5) Average 163p (£725/head) Selling to 250p from J Edwards Mount Farm
Heavy Heifers (19) Average 209.5p (£1190/head) Selling to 249p from F W Humphreys Brook House
Thank you for your support and keep the cattle coming

FAT HOGGETS: (2436)
Superlights to 235p average 172.5p Lights to 215p average 189p, Standards to 236p average 197p, Mediums to 220p average 198p, Heavy's to 212p average 191.5p, Others to 191p average 165p. Overall average 196p.

FAT EWES: (665)
A smaller entry met with a much sharper trade with spirited bidding for everything on offer and an improved overall average of £48. Top price of the day was £100 paid for a cracking ewe from W Clark & Son, Woolston. A strong trade for the 36 rams averaged £60 with a top price of £91 for a tup from J E & M M Thomas,

Llanrhaeadr.
Please Note : All sheep entering the Market must be tagged.

CALVES: (49)
Similar small numbers selling to a considerably sharper trade with best continental males most keenly contested to a high of £410. Best British Blue Bulls to £410 & £345 from Messrs Evans Brwyn £362 from Messrs Jones Bank Farm £360 from Messrs Roberts Ty Issa. Charolais Bulls to £380 from Messrs Evans Glaniwrch. Limousin Bulls to £308 from Messrs Davies Ty Brith £290 from Messrs Evans Halton Farm £255 from Messrs Ellis Pentrewrn. British Blue Heifers to £280 & £276 from Messrs Francis New Barns £270 from Messrs Jones Bank Farm £250 from Messrs Wilkinson Dyffryn. Hereford Bulls to £230 & £228 from Messrs Edwards Tynymaes. Friesian Bulls to £114 & £84 from Messrs Davies Lower Fawnog.

U72 & CULL COWS: (35)
A seasonal entry of 35 cattle met with a fantastic trade. There was a shortage of continental cattle forward and a lot of plain friesians but the average shows how good the trade was. Top price Cow 147p/kg, Heifer 199p/kg and Steer 140p/kg. Top price overall £1154.20
Cows
Limousin to 140p average 128.41p/kg
Friesian to 136p average 109.62p/kg
Others to 147p average 136.01p/kg
Heifers
Limousin to 199p
Friesian to 116p
Steers
Friesian to 140p

35 Cattle average 116.52p/kg
Welshpool Livestock Sales
On March 3 there was an exceptional entry of cows and calves for the time of the year of 56 cows & calves with a solid trade throughout, with a ring side full of buyers. Leading the way was a pedigree Limousin second calver (Ellesmere Elvet) with her British Blue x heifer calf which sold for £2480 from A.H.M. Lea & Sons, Lee Bridges, Ellesmere. This cow & calf formed part of a genuine reduction sale of 14 pedigree Limousin cows with their calves, which has arisen due to the recent inclement weather conditions. Other notable prices from the same herd were £2250 for a second calver pedigree Limousin cow (Ellesmere Ebandy) with her British Blue x bull calf, and £2050 for a third calving pedigree Limousin cow (Ellesmere Delia) with her pedigree Limousin heifer calf (Ellesmere Ivy).
Welshpool Livestock Sales are proud to have been favoured with the instructions of E T Jones & Son, Llwynmelyn, Tregynon, to conduct the genuine dispersal of part of their herd of cows & calves and in calf cows. Mr Jones sold a Simmental third calver with her Simmental bull calf to a top price of £2020, a similar unit with a heifer calf sold for £1550. Mr Jones sold 7 Simmental cows all in-calf to pedigree Simmental bulls (Penwern Bertie or Wroxall Weldone) to £1250 others to £1200 and £1150.
To conclude the section was a special entry from I P & E Jones, Maestdyddyn, Corwen, of 15 in-calf heifers which sold to an average of £1150. A top price of £1360 was achieved with an Aberdeen Angus heifer in-calf to a Limousin. Other notable prices from this consignment were two British Blue heifers at £1300 and £1280, a Simmental at £1250 and a Limousin at £1200.

If any vendor has changed their Farm Assured details please could you notify the market office 01691 653547 so our data base can be updated many thanks.

Store Cattle Fair
Entries invited for the forthcoming March Store Cattle Fair on Tuesday 25th March- Entries for catalogue close Monday 10th March.
For further information or to request entry forms, please contact the market office on, 01938 553438

Store Cattle
Entries invited for the forthcoming store cattle sale to include weanlings and organics on Tuesday 8th April - Entries for catalogue close Monday 24th March.

Store Cattle
Entries invited for the forthcoming April Store Cattle Fair on Tuesday 29th April - Entries for catalogue close Monday 14th April.

For further information or to request entry forms, please contact the market office on, 01938 553438



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THE ARTS

Students win awards at town music festival

by Pam Kingsley

TALENTED musical pupils from Oswestry picked up a haul of trophies and certificates at the town's youth music festival.

Oswestry School student Igor Maleyko, from the Upper Sixth Form, won the John Cassin Memorial Trophy for his electric guitar performance in the U21 string solo class, and Year 10 pupil Alex Dewing was the overall winner in the U15 drum kit solo class.

Pupils at Bellan House entered vocal, string, piano and duet classes with equal success. Kizzy Lumley-Edwards, in Year 6, and Caitlin McHale, in Year 5, took part in the instrumental duet class with piano and flute being awarded first place.

Second places in U12 classes for vocal solos, piano duet, piano solo and beginner solo (drums) went to Katy Scott, Alexandra Heasmer-Jones and Kizzy Lumley-Edwards, all aged 10.

Distinction

The Bellan House choir also took part, singing 'Stars' from Les Misérables and 'Rhythm of Life', and were awarded the Peter Starbuck Cup with distinction.

Sue Morris, head of music at Bellan House, said: "I am extremely proud of all the pupils who took part in the festival whether it was in individual classes or the choir. They showed a huge amount of dedication and enthusiasm throughout."

Oswestry Youth Music Festival attracted hundreds of entries from Shropshire, Staffordshire, Cheshire and Wales. Percussion, string, wood-



Oswestry School pupils with their awards

wind and vocal classes took place over four days last week.

The festival dates back to the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations of 1977 and is well established in the county music calendar.

The festival includes a programme of individual, group and school opportunities linked with celebrity concerts.

Trophies, certificates and prizes are awarded to competitors and past overall winners of the Festival have gone on to successful professional musical careers.

Competitions take place over 4 days in the Methodist Church and Christ Church with judging performed by outside adjudicators.



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GIG GUIDE

Former punk star to bring his act to town

GIG GUIDE

with Edward Roberts

MAKE sure you're free this Saturday as post-punk pioneer Kirk Brandon will be paying a visit to The Hermon Chapel, Oswestry.

Best known for his work as the lead singer of Theatre of Hate and Spear of Destiny, Kirk will be performing a solo acoustic set with support from Dave Sharp.

Kirk first cut his teeth as the singer and songwriter for punk band The Pack, before putting together Theatre of Hate in 1980. During this period the band released its first hit album 'Westworld', which reached number 17 in the UK charts.

After the band dissolved in 1983, Kirk went on to form Spear of Destiny, moving away from post-punk and adopting a more melodic sound.

More recently he was part of punk super-group Dead Men Walking alongside Captain Sensible, Slim Jim Phantom and Mike Peters.

Over the last few years Kirk has released a series of solo acoustic albums, with his latest offering Dutch Masters Volume 5 becoming the best seller in the series.

You can expect a varied set that draws on his prolific music career including fan favourites like 'Do You Believe In The West World?' and 'Never Take Me Alive'.

Kirk will be joined on tour by Dave



Kirk Brandon

Sharp the former guitarist and songwriter for The Alarm, who will be performing some of the best tracks from his 30 year career. The gig starts at 8pm with tickets costing £8 in advance and £10 on the door.

Head over to The Willow Gallery, Oswestry this Friday as the Devil's Chair Ceilidh Band will be performing a special 'St Patrick's Ceilidh'.

You can expect a lively and energetic set, with traditional songs drawn from around the UK. This is one gig you can't help but join in on. It starts at 8pm with tickets costing £8.

Local music scene veteran and singer songwriter Tony Skeggs will be performing at The Royal Oak, Welshpool on Friday night. The gig starts at 9pm and is free entry.



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SPORT

Royle nets double as ladies hit goal trail

TWO goals from Tracey Royle helped Oswestry Ladies maintain their revival in the Cheshire Womens Hockey League division two with a 4-0 success at Alderley Edge III.

Determined to maintain a strong run into the end of the season, the visitors were soon on their mettle against a team who, they had defeated 3-0 in the reverse fixture earlier in the campaign. Mindful of giving a young, fast side an opportunity to attack, Oswestry kept a tight rein from the start to frustrate the opposition, while attacking well at the other end.

The first goal, however, took a long time to come with Alderley Edge throwing everything at the ball in defence. However, it was this that finally proved to be their downfall, as Sarah Lowe forced the ball past the defender who had taken it upon herself to lie prone on the goal line.

From this point onwards, Oswestry were rewarded with regular opportunities to score and short corners, perhaps the one disappointing aspect of the match was the conversion rate on short corners. Given the number awarded, the score could have been much higher.

However, they were able to add to the score with well worked goals from Sandra Jones, and two from Royle.

The pleasing aspect of the performance was the team's set up and passing play throughout in both setting up opportunities and ensuring that Alderley Edge's possession was limited, while being unfazed by the increasing hostile home supporters.

On Saturday, Oswestry host promotion chasing Sale at Oswestry School (2pm) as they bid to continue the improvement they have made over the course of the season.

Foxes are top dogs in Futsall

CROSS Foxes head the Roche North Shropshire Sunday Futsal League on goal difference after beating both The Keys and Duddleston Heath.

In a close game with Duddleston Heath, Foxes came out on 4-2 winners with Rich Hardy, Matt Hardy, Carl Harris and Adam Herbert on target. Matt Hudson and Dale Pierce replied for Duddleston.

In the second game, Foxes came from a goal down to overcome The Keys 7-3 with Adam Herbert notching a hat trick with Rich Hardy, Matt Hardy, Carl Harris and Jamie Roberts scoring one apiece. Tom Freeman responded with a treble for the Keys.

Only two games were played after Malpas and Lodge failed to fulfil their fixtures and their opposition were awarded 3-0 wins.

Fixtures for Sunday, March 23: Duddleston Heath v Tavern, Cross Foxes v Oak Inn, Athletic Market v Tavern, Cross Foxes v Malpas, The Keys v Athletic Market, Lodge Inn v Malpas.

After a losing streak, Welshpool look for some cheer when they host Carno in the Montgomeryshire Cup quarter-final next Tuesday.

Waterloo Rovers are also in action on the same night when they head to Llansantffraid Village while Berriew welcome Llanidloes Town.

Tomos out to ride high New best for Griffiths

A SHROPSHIRE teenager who dreams of becoming the next Bradley Wiggins is hoping a top Shropshire road cycling racing team will give him the experience he needs to get to the top.

Tomos Owens, 15, from Llanymynech, was chosen as the youngest member of the Shrewsbury-based Paramount Performance Cycling Racing Team. The team is made up of riders handpicked from within the Paramount Cycling Club.

While many teenagers are concerned about their social life, or computer games, Tomos' passion is cycling and he has already had huge success in the sport.

He has twice been the British Track Omnium champion and Welsh Omnium Champion.

He also won the Welsh Road Championships when he was 10, 11, 12 and 13-years-

old as well as the British National Circuit under 12s series in 2011.

While Tomos is too young to take part in road races, he can represent the team in closed circuit racing.

"I was chuffed to make the team," the year 10 Llanfyllin School pupil said. "I've never raced in a proper team before."

Tomos is putting in many hours of training before the racing season starts.

He said: "I'm quite known for getting lost training as I just go out and find some roads and have a bit of fun."

"Most times I come back and my Mum says 'we were just coming out to find you' but I always say that would be hard as I don't even know where I am!"

He has been following a training plan, provided by Paramount team member Dave Griffiths.

A SHROPSHIRE cyclist is celebrating a personal record – and the first win of the new season for the Paramount Performance Cycling Racing Team.

Dave Griffiths, 37, won the Wrekinsport Hilly Time Trial in 40 minutes, 59 seconds. The race, an 18-mile course, is seen as the start of the cycling season in Shropshire.

It is the third time Dave, from Oswestry, has won the race, beating his record in 2010 of 41 minutes, 26 seconds and finishing 47 seconds before the next rider.

Dave was selected to race for the Paramount Performance CRT from riders from the Paramount CRT club.

He said: "It was a great start to the season. It was hard going as it was the first time trial I have done in eight months so it was a bit of a shock to the system."

Dave put his success down to a new training regime and added: "Instead of going for longer riders, my rides are shorter but more intense and that's helping."

Dave, an engineer manager working, said he is looking forward to the new season, especially to doing more time trials.

"Last year was mainly road racing but this year, with family and work commitments, it will be mainly time trials," he said.

Fellow team member Victoria Grimmer, 31, from Cophorne, Shrewsbury, has also had a successful start to the season.

She came ninth in her first race, the Pimbo Circuit at Skelmersdale, Lancashire, which wins her British Cycling points.

"It felt really good," she said. "It was not a race that suited me because I'm not really a flat, fast racer. I suit more open roads."

Howland hat-trick keeps Eagles flying at the top

SPORT
by John Bridgwater



OSWESTRY consolidated their top six place in rugby's South Lancs and Cheshire Two as Nick Howland went over for a hat-trick of tries to set up a 52-5 success at bottom club Wallasey.

Looking to get back to their good run of away wins since the turn of the year, the Eagles began the game well, dominating early scrums and securing several against the head to give a good attacking platform.

Howland quickly got involved in the action with an early break down the wing, but it was Michael Keaveny who showed his pace along the flank and crashing through tackles to score, the conversion was missed.

The visitors continued to pressure, and this time wing man Howland made it count, outpacing his opposite man and rounding the full back to score, converted by Luca Owen-Youens.

Wallasey finally began to work their way into the game, and some well worked moves gained them a penalty in the Oswestry 22, which they took full advantage of to power over, unconverted.

A sound talking to by captain Andy Smith refocused the Oswestry team, and they pressured from the kick off and worked their way into the home 22, and Olly Wilford showed power and a great hand off to score, converted by Owen-Youens.

The Eagles pressured once more from the kick off, and good hands by centre Tom Keaveny and Tom Treasure saw Howland show his pace once more to touch down, with the conversion missed from out wide, leaving the visitors ahead 24-5 at the break.

Disallowed

Oswestry continued to work hard after the break, with lowly Wallasey still competing well in open play. The scrums, however, were a different matter, with the visitors dominant. A powerful drive from a scrum in the home 22 saw man-of-the-match Tom Thorpe control the ball well at the back and then score, converted by Owen-Youens.

From the kick off, great hands by Chris Hesketh put Gaz Ellis in a hole, and good support by Dan Samuels almost allowed Nick Clay to score in the corner. Jack Fox was then unlucky to have a try disallowed after a good break, but he then made another great break, and some more stellar hands by Samuels put Clay in under the posts, again converted by Owen-Youens.

A good lineout take by Samuels soon after gave Oswestry the chance to drive deep into the Wallasey 22, and then a great run by Luke Roberts saw him shrug off three tackles to power over for his first try touchdown for the first team, and Owen-Youens continued his fine form with the boot to add the extras.

Iwan Ellis was unlucky to have a try disallowed for a forward pass, but Howland once more showed his pace, and this time his strength to stay infield and touch down for his third try, converted from out wide by Owen-Youens.

Without a game this weekend, 'The Eagles' next game is at home to fourth placed Bowdon on Saturday, March 22.

Local golf returns

CARDEN PARK: Ladies 9 Hole Stableford: C Wilson 22pts; H Groves 19pts; C Charmley 15pts. **Alison Smith Legacy-Mixed Charity 9 Hole Stableford:** J Baker (Portal) 17pts; A Jones 16pts; J Wadsworth 12pts..

OSWESTRY: Four Ball Better Ball Medal 15 Holes No 9: R Cowley & G Westman 54 (c/b); F Mottram & K Osgood 54; D Thomas & D James 55 (c/b); C Chilles & J Bate 55; J Poole & J Roberts 56 (c/b); A Richardson & S Owen 56.

THE BROW: Monthly Medal March 1 and 2: Winner P Shore 76-17=59. Best Gross: E Brown 76. Division 1: T Brough 78-16=62. Division 2: I Davies 84-21=63.



Up we go – COBRA contest a line-out during their narrow cup defeat to Bala. Picture: Trevor Jones



Action from Welshpool seconds' 55-8 defeat to Mold II sees No 8 Colin Morgan break free. Pic: Gary Williams.

Yellow peril for COBRA

LITTLE went right for COBRA who suffered their fourth defeat of the season at the hands of high riding Bala to scupper any remaining hopes in the North Wales Cup.

Despite a plucky display, the Meifod side were edged out 15-8 to their hosts, with three yellow cards before half-time followed by a string of second half injuries disrupting their challenge.

A penalty from Alwyn Williams gave COBRA the lead as they looked for their first win against Bala this term, but they then had both their props and second row sin binned at various times during the first half.

It was when they were down to 14

men late in the first period that the home side capitalised from a scrum, being awarded a penalty try after the referee ruled it had been brought down by the visitors close to the line. With the conversion going over, it meant that Bala led 7-3 at half time.

Undaunted, the Llanfair Caereinion side hit back in the second half as winger Richard Jones went over for an unconverted score following a well-worked move.

However, hopes of prevailing were hampered by injuries to three key players, one of those seeing centre Frazer Roberts break two bones in his right hand to face the prospect of

missing the rest of the season.

Bala got their noses in front with a try following a kick ahead from deep after the ball ran loose, before sealing the victory with a penalty five minutes from time.

WELSHPOOL were well beaten 55-5 at Swalec Welsh League division three (north) title chasers Menai Bridge, but their efforts did not reflect the scoreline.

Fielding a weakened line-up, they were always chasing the game after conceding 15 points in the first five minutes, and trailed 27-0 at half time.

Although the Anglesey hosts bagged a couple of quick tries in the second

PLACINGS

Stonehouse Brewery Oswestry & District Dominoes League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cross Foxes.....	20	10	6	4	71	49	26
Black Lion A.....	19	11	3	5	70	44	25
Black Lion B.....	19	8	7	4	65	49	23
Pemberton Inn.....	20	7	9	4	64	56	23
Top White Lion.....	20	8	7	5	61	59	23
Station.....	19	8	6	5	62	52	22
Bradford Arms.....	19	8	6	5	60	54	22
Pias Yn Dinas.....	20	8	5	7	62	58	21
Horseshoe.....	19	7	6	6	59	55	20
White Lion.....	19	3	10	6	53	61	16
Black Horse.....	20	3	7	10	50	70	13
Railway Tavern.....	19	2	5	12	44	70	9
Barley Mow.....	19	3	3	13	36	78	9

Dominoes

trebles top

THIS Welshpool & District Darts League saw the Blind Trebles take place at the Social Club this week.

The names were drawn out at 8.30 pm prompt and the draw saw some strong teams emerge.

From the bottom half of the draw the team of Neil Summers, Wyn Gittins and Craig (Nugget) Davies reached the final only to be beaten by Kacey Jones, Gareth Ashley and John Williams in a superb final.

Well done to The Quays' Kacey Jones, The Westwood's Gareth Ashley and The Kings Head's John Williams.

Back to league action this Friday for both the leagues with an important match with the Talbot B hosting the Red Lion.

Elite Club proving a knockout success

THE Elite Mixed Martial Arts Club in Oswestry is going from strength to strength after its fighters secured more success at the Punch-Up promotions in Wolverhampton.

Elite MMA incorporates a mixture of boxing, wrestling, kickboxing, Brazilian Jujitsu (BJJ) and submission wrestling, with the Oswestry club having a large number of members from beginners to the more experienced.

First up, Christopher Catt at the age of 15, put on a fine performance but was unfortunate to suffer a second round defeat when he got caught with a rear naked choke submission.

With a record of one win and one loss he will undoubtedly learn from this experience to become a better fighter.

Next Irran Lane again won in the first round with complete devastation putting Elite on the map with an outstanding performance.

Irran came out strong and overpowered his opponent with combos and knees to the body before finally winning with a guillotine choke.

Third up was Stephen Andrews with another outstanding performance who dominated all three rounds to secure a win and become the new flyweight title holder.

"Team Elite are getting better and better," said a spokesman. "We would also like to say well done to Alex Gill from Devils workshop which is run by Stephen Andrews who fights out of team Elite."

With its fantastic training facility in Oswestry, Elite MMA is the only dedicated mixed martial arts gym in Shropshire. For more information see the website at <http://elite-martial-arts.net> or ring Rich Cosgrove on 07970 856002.

SPORT

Ellesmere young hot shots back in groove

Heathcock hat-trick sees Morda cruise it

Llanfair's fightback keeps up title charge

ELLESMERE'S young guns recorded a convincing double over local rivals AFC Telford United on their return to Midland Floodlit Youth League Premier North Division action for the first time since December.

Boosted by progressing to the semi-final of the Staffordshire FA Midweek Floodlit Youth Cup the previous week, Rangers ran out 3-0 winners to continue their good form which has seen them win their last seven matches in all competitions.

The home side maintained their recent flying starts by taking a second minute lead when Sean Griffiths drove around the back of the Telford rear-guard before seeing his cross come short find its way in at the near post.

Ellesmere's youngsters did not have it all their own way as the visitors enjoyed good periods of possession without really troubling Dan Pilkington in the home goal, but the home stopper had to be alert midway through the half to claw away a goalbound effort from the Telford striker after a mistake.

Organised

Rangers doubled their lead in the 40th minute as Mike O'Reilly chased down the goalkeeper forcing an error allowing him to run the ball in before Will Twyford's expert through ball to Paddy Townsend early in the second period saw the wide player convert strongly to see seal all three points.

Despite the convincing victory, manager Dan Stevens felt his side were not at their best.

"It was probably our least fluent performances of the season but we were extremely functional and organised throughout and it was positive to pick up another clean sheet and ultimately it was a comfortable win and keeps us in the hunt," he said.

Ellesmere host Boldmere St Michaels tonight in The Midland Floodlit Youth League Cup third round, before they finally end their week by entertaining Meole Brace in their delayed Umbro Shropshire FA Youth Cup Quarter-final on Sunday.

Saints are stunned by strugglers

IMPROVING St Martins were brought down to earth after slumping to a disappointing 2-0 home loss to bottom club Wolverhampton United at Park Hall.

After reeling off five wins from six outings to boost their hopes of survival in the West Midlands League division one, the Saints were undone by the league's basement side despite dominating much of the game.

They enjoyed the bulk of possession, but struggled to find a way through a determined side that defended and tackled stoutly before striking on the break.

Two minutes before half time, the Saints fell behind when Jordan Cross' shot beat keeper Paul Foster, and on the hour they doubled the lead when Carl Turner broke on the left.

Without Sam Thomas, St Martins - who have no game on Saturday - failed to prise many openings, although Karl Bailey had a couple of half chances late on.

Heathcock hat-trick sees Morda cruise it

MORDA United cruised into the quarter-finals of the Shropshire Challenge Cup with a 6-2 passage at Cle Hill United.

After reaching the last eight of the Mer-cian Regional League premier division the previous week, the Weston Road continued on the road to some silverware by hitting their south Shropshire hosts for six in the prestigious county competition.

A fine team performance including a hat-trick from Ian Heathcock, a brace from Mike Lloyd and one goal from Jack Hughes saw Morda comfortably through.

Hosts Cle Hill responded through James Clifford and Steve Preece but were never really in with a chance of upsetting their higher league opponents.

In front of a meagre crowd, Morda took the lead on 20 minutes when skipper Lloyd headed home a Shaheen Miah corner, but

within five minutes the Hillmen equalised with Clifford finding the net direct from a free kick.

Heathcock, however, restored the Morda advantage from a Gareth Lewis cross on 28 minutes before chipping the advancing keeper for his second on the half hour.

Mike Lloyd extended Morda's lead again from a Miah corner five minutes before the break to put his side in charge.

Miah was again the creator when Heathcock completed his hat-trick on 62 minutes, then a Jack Hughes shot secured Morda's sixth before Preece hit a late consolation.

After their recent cup exploits, Morda return to league action on Saturday when they entertain third-in-the-table Whitchurch Alport (3pm) as they bid to maintain their push for the Mer-cian Regional League premier division crown.

WESTON RHYN remain second bottom and in relegation danger in the premier division after slumping to a 4-1 home loss to Wellington Amateur reserves. They visit Oakengates on Saturday as they chase much needed points to lift the clouds.

■ Craig Whitfield, the former New Saints striker, bagged a hat-trick as Cefn Druids pushed Llanidloes Town deeper into Cymru Alliance relegation danger with a crushing 7-1 victory against the depleted Daffis.

Scott Quigley, who is also on loan from TNS, had bagged the first on nine minutes before defender Gavin Cadwallader doubled the lead right on half time.

Cadwallader then netted his second on the hour, before Whitfield opened his account on 69 minutes.

Gareth Mansell reduced the arrears from the next attack with the 30-yarder, but the

Druids underlined their dominance with Matt Owen netting No5 on 79 minutes.

Whitfield then rounded things off with his second on 82 minutes before completing his treble from the penalty spot four minutes from time.

■ High-flying Llanfair reserves continue to set the pace at the top of JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division one with a 9-1 romp at Trefonen. But the highest scorers were Guilsfield reserves who hammered struggling Newtown reserves 15-1 to keep alive their challenge, while Waterloo reserves are going well in second with a 4-1 verdict over Llanfyllin. Results:

Honda One: Caersŵs Res 3 Llangedwyn 1, Guilsfield Res 15 Newtown Res 1, Trefonen 1 Llanfair Res 9, Llan-tychain 2 Meifod 5, Waterloo Res 4 Llanfyllin 1. **Mitsubishi Two:** Betws 3 Fforden Utd 0, Llansantffraid Res 0 Kerry Res 0, Four Crosses Res 0 Maesysrhondir 0, Churchstoke 0 Bernier Res 1 Llanymynech 1 Waterloo Colts 0, Newtown Wanderers 3, Carno Res 3

Llanfair's fightback keeps up title charge

LLANFAIR United maintained their challenge in the Spar Mid Wales League division one - but were made to battle all the way before overcoming Welshpool Town.

They had trailed 1-0 at half-time, but hit back after the interval to clinch a 2-1 verdict that took them to top of the second spot, and four points behind leaders Llandrindod Wells, whom they host in a top of the table showdown on Saturday.

Andrew Hughes levelled matters in the second period when heading in a Chris Gethin cross and Matt Spencer pounced for what proved to be the winner when slotting home after latching onto a pass from Geraint Jones.

CARNO, in fifth place, also closed the gap to seven points on the leaders with a 3-1 home success over Aberystwyth University.

All their goals came in the first half with Dan Goodman heading the first from a corner and Peter Rees doubling the lead after being released by Dan Kenyon.

Kenyon made it third from the penalty spot after being fouled in the box before the students pulled one back in the second half.

LLANSANTFFRAID Village continued their good run of form by winning 2-1 at Tywyn Brynrcrug to consolidate their seventh place.

In division two, Kerry finished 1-1 at home to basement rivals Newbridge while Aberystwyth were 1-0 winners at home to Talgarth to consolidate their position in the top half of the table.

Elsewhere, bottom club Bont picked up a point in their 2-2 home draw with Presteigne and Machynlleth shaded a 3-4 tussle at Hay St Mary's to keep their title hopes alive.

PLACINGS

Mercian Football League

Shropshire Challenge Cup round three: Brown City 1-0 Llanfyllin 2, Cle Hill 1-0 Morda Utd 6, Oakengates Athletic 1, Donnington Sports and Social 2, Rock Rovers 2, Bishops Castle Town 0. Premier division: Bridgnorth Reserves 10, Press 1, Aliscott 3, Shifnal Utd 1, Hadnot 1, Ketley Bank Utd 2, Telford Juniors 3, Madeley Sports 1, Weston Rhyn 1, Wellington Amateurs Reserves 4. Division one: Dawley Town 1, Oswestry Town 0, Shawbury Utd Reserves 1, Meole Brace 2, Shrewsbury Utd 2, Wrockwade Wood 4, Wood Juniors 6, Wroxeter Rovers 2, Oakengates Rangers 1, Division two: Oswestry Villa Reserves 1, Impact Utd 8, Alldridge Juniors 0, Wrockwade Wood 3, Highley Miners Welfare 2, AFC Wellington 4. Division two Cup first round: Shrewsbury Utd Reserves 2, Spalding Britannia 4.

Four-star Saints march on towards Premier title

The New Saints 4 Bangor City 1

MIKE Wilde's brace, including a goal after 25 seconds, kept The New Saints three points clear at the top of the Welsh Premier with victory over 10-man Bangor at Park Hall.

The striker capitalised on a defensive slip right from the kick off and, although a comedy of errors allowed Jamie Petrie to fire the Citizens level seven minutes later, the Saints were near not convincing winners.

Their cause was helped with Bangor keeper Dave Roberts dismissed 10 minutes into the second period, while fine strikes from Alex Darlington and Sam Finley completed the home tally.

With second placed Airbus also winning 2-1 at Carmarthen, TNS remained three points clear at the top with a game in hand, although director of football Craig Harrison felt his side did not fire on all cylinders.

"We played well, but I don't think the performance was fantastic," he said.

"We had a slack 15 minute spell in the first half, and a slack 15 minute spell in the second, but it's sometimes hard to keep your concentration when your opponents go down to 10 men.

"We could have done a bit better, but that's me just being a bit hyper critical.

"The main thing is that it's another three points towards the title. We are not worried what Airbus do, we'll just concentrate on ourselves."

TNS made a flying start, getting in front after just 25 seconds when Bangor lost possession, allowing Darlington to run through unchallenged on goal. Although the striker was up-ended by keeper Roberts, referee Mark Whitty played advantage and the ball fell to Wilde who had the simple

FOOTBALL
by John Bridgwater



task of slotting into an un-guarded net from 14 yards.

But Bangor were themselves presented with a goal on eight minutes following a defensive gaffe at the other end as keeper Paul Harrison's clearance struck team-mate Phil Baker, and Kai Baker miscued the loose ball straight to Petrie who beat Harrison at the second attempt.

Buoyed by the goal, Bangor began to attack with purpose with a couple of testing crosses, Sion Edwards heading over in one raid.

TNS were struggling to get into their stride against their industrious visitors, but began to look more incisive as Chris Jones launched a strong run from deep before driving his shot just past the left post.

Kai Edwards' disappointing afternoon ended prematurely when forced off by injury after half an hour, and the Citizens looked to be up for the fight.

Faded

Roberts then saved low down from Jones, while at the other end Sion Edwards volleyed across goal as the encounter continued to open up.

However, Bangor's hopes of retrieving the game faded 10 minutes into the second half when Roberts was dismissed for his second caution when impeding Jones after advancing out of his box.

Youngster Nick Bould took over in goal, but was beaten just a couple of minutes later when Mullan weaved his way to the left byline before squaring for Wilde to convert his second goal of the game from close in.

A fourth goal that had been threatening arrived on 76 minutes, and in some style, when Finley hammered a first time strike into the roof of the net from 25 yards.



The New Saints striker Alex Darlington is fouled by Bangor City goalkeeper Dave Roberts at Park Hall. Picture: PETER SHAH.



FC Oswestry's Gary Windsor puts an early effort over the bar. Pic: Ian Jones.

Shock defeat for FC

FC Oswestry Town's title ambitions in the Mer-cian Regional League division one suffered another jolt after going down 1-0 at Dawley Town - their second one goal reverse in successive weeks.

Despite the defeat, Town are still three points clear at the top, but have played three more games than Childs Ercall.

Nick Maguire's men started well enough on the windswept pitch and the first good chance fell to Gary Windsor but the uneven surface saw his shot fly over the woodwork.

More chances came but the home keeper was in good form to pull off a fine save from an Adam Jones rocket, while a Windsor corner was well met by Kurt Smith but the ball again flew over the woodwork.

Town started the second half with purpose but struggled to find a breakthrough with conditions not helping them play their usual passing game.

Then, with 30 minutes left on the clock, Dawley broke down the left and managed to sneak the lead against the run of play.

The Telford hosts were reduced to 10 men when their player manager was sent off for violent conduct, but the Oswestry side failed to make the one-man advantage count and travelled home pointless.

On Saturday, Town travel to Meole Brace looking to regain momentum in their push for promotion. OSWESTRY VILLA reserves, third bottom in division two, lost 8-1 at home to Impact United.

Six of the best for super Guils

HOLDERS Guilsfield continued the defence of the Central Wales Cup with a dominant 6-0 home passage against Rhosgoch to seal their place in the quarter-finals.

James Henderson gave the Guils a first half lead against their spirited visitors who battled hard before being dunned by five goals in the last 20 minutes.

Danny Barton scored twice as Rhosgoch tired, while Chris Cathrall, Jack Harris and Ryan Jones were also on the mark.

BERRIEW are also through to the last eight, but were made to battle all the way before booking their ticket with a 4-1 passage against DYFFRYN BANW after extra time.

LLANRHAELADR were comfortable 4-0 winners at MONTGOMERY in their delayed third round tie, to set up a home clash with Aberystwyth University. Ben White's header separated the sides at the interval, before Lewis Jones doubled the advantage in the second half.

Another headed goal from Mark Griffiths made it 3-0 before Iwan Matthews completed the scoring, while Monty keeper Steve Goodwin pulled off some good saves, including one from player boss George Hughes late on.

High flying Llandrindod Wells beat Aberaeron 1-0.

SPORT

OSWESTRY Sports Desk 01952 241473

Football

New Saints home in on Premier title

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Rugby

Latest news on the local teams

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Callum Jones - Scot hope

Callum is rising star of rugby at Worcs

OSWESTRY School Year 10 pupil Calum Jones, who lives near Welshpool, has gone from strength to strength in his training with the Worcester Warriors U15 squad.

Calum was identified by the Worcester Warriors as a talented rugby player last summer and he jumped at the opportunity to join the prestigious training programme.

Since then, Calum has been selected to participate in every team match played, which included wins against Gloucester and Northampton Saints.

Calum trains every week at the Worcester ground and was part of the team who won against Saracens Academy 27-10 and narrowly lost 22-21 against a very physical Harlequins side.

Calum said: "The weekly training every Tuesday consist of an hour in the gym and ball work and moves for about an hour."

As well as his opportunities at Worcester, 14 year old Calum is also fully committed to his rugby playing for the Oswestry School U15 team, and also finds time to play for Telford Hornets and every couple of months the Scottish Exiles squad.

Calum, who has Scottish parentage, was selected for the Scottish Exiles after attending a regional development group training session and there are hopes for a possible future appearance in a Scottish jersey.

Rare defeat for the U19s

TNS' young guns suffered their first loss in nine outings when going down 4-2 at Bangor City in the Welsh Premier under-19s league.

On the scoresheet for the under-19s were Ryan Edwards and Ryan Kershaw, who was later sent off for two bookings.

Llanfair gearing up for table-top battle

AFTER moving second in the Spar Mid Wales League division one, Llanfair United are now gunning for leaders Llandrindod Wells on Saturday with boss Rhys Stephens admitting: "If we win, things will get interesting."

Although below their best, particularly in the first half, Llanfair trimmed Llandrindod's lead to four points with a 2-1 win over Welshpool at the Mount last weekend.

They had trailed at half-time, but hit back in the second period with Andrew Hughes heading in a Chris Gethin cross before Matt Spencer hit the winner.

"We were shocking in the first half, but we're much improved in the second and just about deserved the win," added Stephens.

"At this stage of the season, it's all about the results. Saturday's now a massive game for us, and if we can win, things will start to get interesting."

Llandrindod, unbeaten until just a few weeks ago, showed some chinks in their armour with back-to-back defeats against Carno, but won 1-0 against Aberaeron last Saturday in the Central Wales Cup.

Without a game last week, Waterloo Rovers return to duty at home to Aberystwyth University as they bid to cement their top four position.

Welshpool Town, languishing fourth from bottom, will hope to halt their worrying slump when they entertain in-form Carno, while Llansantffraid Village put

their recent good form to the test at third placed Berriew. Improving Four Crosses look to make it three wins on the bounce against Dyffryn Banw at Foxen Manor.

Llanrhaeadr kept their flag flying in the Montgomeryshire Cup with a 3-2 home win over Caersws with Iwan Matthews, Hamish Clifton and Adam Burgess the scorers.

Guilsfield suffered their first loss since the end of October after being edged out 2-1 at lowly Llanidloes Town in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance. Despite carving several good chances on a tricky surface in the mid-week clash, the Guils trailed at the break to Matthew Savage's 15th minute strike. Matt Burton's men looked to have sal-

vaged a share of the spoils when home keeper Dave Jones could only help Jack Harris' free kick into the net nine minutes from time. But, as they pushed for a winner late on, the Guils were caught on the break with Gareth Mansell supplying the finish.

Guilsfield have been drawn away to Cymru Alliance rivals Penrhynoch in the last eight of the Central Wales Cup.

Matt Burton's side progressed with a 6-0 hammering of Rhosgoch last Saturday.

Llanfair United face a tough trip to Caersws, while Berriew will entertain the winners of the delayed tie between Llanrhaeadr or Aberystwyth University.

Quarter final draw: Caersws v Llanfair United, Berriew v Llanrhaeadr or Aberystwyth University, Knighton Town v Llandrindod Wells, Penrhynoch v Guilsfield.

Europe the aim now for Tulloch

A TALENTED teenage showjumper from Oswestry is hoping to reach the Pony European Championships later this year after excelling at a national pre-season eventing competition.

Thomas Tulloch, from Oswestry, won two separate sections at the Jumping and Style Championship in Buckinghamshire.

The 14-year-old won triumphed in both the hotly contested Novice and Open Championship sections, riding Spirit VI, and also took second place in the Novice class on Trewithian Bracken.

Tulloch, the son of former International Event rider Jancis Tulloch, is hoping that if he maintains such form it will lead to a place in the British Pony squad for the European Championships in July.

He said: "I was aiming for a top 10 finish. To win both classes is incredible and to be placed second in the Novice too - well, you couldn't ask for any more."

Selectors

"Both ponies jumped very well. My ultimate aim for 2014 is to continue competing at Pony Trials level and hopefully be considered by the selectors for the British Pony squad for the European Championships."

He added: "The feedback from the coach (British Senior team Chef d'Equip Yogi Breisner) was very constructive so I've taken away some clear points to work on."

Tulloch beat 43 competitors in the Novice and 26 of all ages, including professional adults, in the Open.

Each of the winners took home prizes from competition sponsors Baileys Horse Feeds including feed vouchers, rugs and saddlecloths and £500 of vouchers to use on British Eventing-credited training. Tulloch intends to use his vouchers on tuition from British Pony Team trainer Jonquil Hemming.

Winners also landed a place on a cross-country training clinic with former World and Olympic medal winner Blyth Tait.

DARLINGTON OUT FOR THE SEASON

THE New Saints have suffered a setback in their Welsh Premier title pursuit with striker Alex Darlington to miss the rest of the campaign with a fractured foot.

Darlington, who has netted 10 times this season, suffered a broken metatarsal in the league leaders' 4-1 victory over Bangor City on Saturday.

The injury means that the former Wrexham forward will play no further part in the Saints' pursuit of a league and Welsh Cup double.

Head coach Carl Darlington said: "It's a massive blow to lose Alex."

"We wish him all the best for a full recovery, but fortunately we've got strength in depth."

"We've got plenty of options. Mike Wilde scored twice against Bangor, and Greg Draper came on and did well so it's a great opportunity for him now."

Wilde and Draper have scored 21 goals between them this season and Darlington believes the Saints still look in good shape as they bid to march on at the top of the table in Saturday's home clash with Carmarthen Town (2.30pm).

Ruthless
"We were really happy with the display against Bangor, particularly with the performance in the second half," he said.

"People will point to the sending-off of their keeper in the second half, but we were already 2-1 up and on top at that stage."

"The only downside was that we had some great chances to have been further ahead, and need to be more ruthless in front of goal."

"We also gifted them their goal, but we'll take it on the chin and move on."

"We want our side to play football from the back and

by John Bridgwater

sometimes you're going to make mistakes. But the important thing is that we learn from it."

Kai Edwards, who was forced off after rolling his ankle in the victory against Bangor, faces a fitness check.

But Ryan Fraughan could be back in contention after missing recent games.

TNS director of football Craig Harrison, meanwhile, is refusing to get carried away despite the defending champions sitting pretty at the top of the Welsh Premier.

The home win over Bangor kept the defending champions three points clear at the top of the table, and with a game in hand on their only realistic challengers, Airbus UK.

With eight games remaining, starting with another Park Hall clash against Carmarthen Town on Saturday, the Saints are well placed to land a record-breaking eighth league crown as well as the Welsh Cup.

TNS have already defeated this weekend's opponents twice at home this season, 6-0 in the league and more recently 2-0 in the Welsh Cup.

But Harrison is guarding

against any complacency. "We have a got ourselves a nice little gap at the top of the table and we just have to keep going," he said.

"We certainly don't think that we have won the league, just because we are sitting in first position."

"We have to keep on working hard and winning games."

"We have four of our eight games left to play at home at Park Hall stadium where we have a fantastic record."

"We are looking at picking up maximum points from our home games, but we don't want familiarity to breed contempt."

"We also want to keep our unbeaten home record going, which really is a great incentive for us to keep putting the performances in and getting the desired results."

"We are now in the business end of the season and I am really happy with where we are."

"We had bad results away at Prestatyn and Newtown, but they have been the only hiccups this season."

"I have been very pleased with the lads and we just have to make sure that we keep the form going until the end of the season."

Ellesmere tennis teams are ace



The Ellesmere College mixed doubles team of Sammy Leung, Kotryna Calova, Ole Linne and Louisa Wegener

ELLESMERE College pupils served up a triple success in the AEGON Team Tennis Schools Senior Championships.

All three teams - girls, boys and mixed doubles - have qualified for the national finals, held this weekend at the Bolton

Arena which is one of the Lawn Tennis Association's 19 High Performance Centres.

Stephen Weli, senior performance coach at Ellesmere, said: "I couldn't be more proud of the students. This is the first time a school has managed to get all three teams into the finals."

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